

Annual Report 2007



Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education



Contents

2	President's Address
4	A Thought For a Change
6	Projects Writeup
11	Children with Special Needs
13	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
15	A Project Site Visit
17	Fundraisers and Awareness Events
24	Asha Marathon
26	ACE 2007
28	Asha Fellowships
29	Asha Internship Program
31	Asha in the News
33	Appendix - Asha Financial Report 2007
34	Financials
37	Project Disbursements
51	Disbursement Ratios
54	Contact Information



President's Note

Anand Raghavan

This year marked 16 years of Asha's existence. Since our humble beginnings in Berkeley, we grew to over 60 chapters this year, raising over \$3.44 million and disbursing over \$2.51 million towards more than 240 initiatives in India. Asha-Canada got the status of a Charitable Organization from the Canada Revenue agency with tax exemption. They also formally ratified a formal administrative structure; one based on Asha's core values of volunteerism, non-hierarchy, participatory democracy and transparency, and consequently elected a new coordination team. Asha chapters in the US met for our biennial national conference at the Rutgers University over the Memorial Day weekend with participation from more than 100 volunteers representing 23 chapters. In addition to discussing strategies for our growth in the coming years, the conference also gave us an opportunity to learn about the work of different project partners supported by various chapters, and understand ways in which we can improve our efforts towards empowerment through education. We had keynote addresses from noted educationists Dr. Vinod Raina of Bharatiya Gyan Vigyan Samiti and Mr. E. R. Ramamurthy of Shikshana.

Our work and your support continued to win recognition from different organizations. Asha once again made it to the top-ten lists of Charity Navigator in the "10 Slam Dunk Charities" and the "10 Charities to Watch For" categories. This

year, Asha also received the Zakir Hussain Award from the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations in recognition of 'services towards the upliftment of the poor and the oppressed members of the society in India'. Our Internship program continued to draw interest and attention from several hundred applicants, among whom we selected a few who got an opportunity to spend a few weeks to a few months with our project partners, learning about their work while volunteering side-by-side with them.

The Asha Fellowship program continued to grow this year as we expanded our support to areas of work such as Right to Information (RTI) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Over the past years, the Fellowship program has grown to now include healthcare, curriculum improvement, gender equity, children at risk, national resource management and community ownership, ecology and legal help for women, in addition to RTI and NREGS. We held a conference in December at Bharathi Trust in Tamil Nadu, bringing together the fellows who we support, to learn from their work and for knowledge sharing and exchange. We continued our efforts towards pushing for the introduction of the Right to Education Bill in the Indian Parliament through petition drives and faxes and letters to the Indian government.



Through the year we held several awareness events such as talks by Magsaysay award winner Arvind Kejriwal of Parivartan at U-Florida on Right to Information, and Padmashree Prof. Anil Gupta of the Honeybee network by Asha-London at the London School of Business on the subject of education, the benefits and drawbacks of the current system of education, and the empowerment of the poor. These events provide great opportunities for our volunteers as well as our donors to understand more about the issues surrounding education and what efforts can be taken towards empowerment through education.

Our flagship national fundraisers had another great year. Work An Hour, where we encourage patrons to donate one hour's worth of wages towards the cause of education, raised \$117K from 1221 donors with a theme of 'Better Schools. Better Retention Rates. Decreased Child Labor'. TeamAsha - our marathon training program - expanded to over a dozen chapters nationwide training over 400 runners who in turn raised funds for our cause. This year our Notes of Hope concert series hosted U. Shrinivas and dancers from Shri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind. In addition to these events coordinated at a national level, most of our chapters held their own annual fundraisers - concerts, dinner galas, cricket tournaments, and dance shows. We thank every one of you that we came in contact with this year - patrons at our events, athletes at our different sports events, donors who supported our runners and the WAH program and the dedicated volunteers and their families who make us who we are. We hope that 2008 takes us one step closer to our mission and towards better understanding of the issues surrounding our mission and objectives that will enable us to direct our energies better towards reaching our goals.



A Thought for a Change

Lakshmi Varanasi, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

As time passes by, the world ages
And things become less cherished

A tree which once stood proudly
Now lies withered and old
Swaying in the slightest zephyr

A stately and illustrious lion
Who was once the king
Lies now in shame, prideless
And isolated

The human race, once tolerant and
empathetic is now thoughtless and unforgiving

We have aged in the realm
of the emotionless time

Our earth was once a sanctuary for life
But time has made it so that
conflict, and agony can be seen everywhere



A mother struggling to feed
Her hungry children

A lonely abandoned child
Caught in the web of a perilous emotion

An injured animal, vulnerable
And unable to move

We must change this
By making Earth a haven for life
Once again, but to do that
We need to help one another do the same

And one day we will all accomplish that
And earth will be a place which only
Becomes even more priceless as time passes by
And it will be illuminated by the radiance of God,
So help us, for the fight for humanity
Is one which will never age.





Project Writeup

Srikanth Voorakaranm, Asha Dallas

Asha works with a number of project partners and community groups in many educational and development related endeavors. Our mission is to not only look at issues concerning access to education, but also to ensure that every child receives an education that is meaningful. We try and ensure that nutrition and health care needs of the children are met. As our rapport builds with our partners, we make efforts to make the community impact more tangible by supporting areas of need such as women's issues and community awareness. With this in mind, we continue to invest our energies in supporting different types of endeavors as outlined in the following sections. Our involvement in each of these areas not only helps the individual efforts but also helps us understand the problems faced by different communities and the important role played by each type of endeavor.

In 2007, Asha worked with over 240 partner initiatives across 21 states of India. Funds disbursed were \$2.51 M out of total revenues of \$3.44 M. The disbursal rate of 73% is an increase from 68% achieved in 2006. 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. 23 initiatives received more than \$25,000 each while 55 initiatives were supported with fund

ing ranging from \$10,000 and \$25,000. Besides this, Asha maintained its focus on working with small project partners, who would otherwise not have access to resources from other sources of funding, through smaller grants of less than \$10,000 each.





State-wise allocation of funding is given in the table below (amount in dollars).

State	Number of Project Initiatives	Funding	Funding Percent
Andhra Pradesh	23	198987.00	7.90
Assam	3	62661.00	2.48
Bihar	2	7425.00	0.29
Chattisgarh	1	11125.00	0.44
Gujarat	6	42575.00	1.69
Haryana	1	6330.00	0.25
Jharkhand	1	5400.00	0.21
Karnataka	13	298774.00	11.86
Kerala	4	47500.00	1.89
Madhya Pradesh	4	39205.00	1.56
Maharashtra	19	413908.00	16.44
Manipur	4	30052.00	1.19
New Delhi	13	61976.85	2.46
Orissa	11	97333.00	3.87
Punjab	1	1500.00	0.06
Rajasthan	3	26469.30	1.05
Tamil Nadu	61	609253.73	24.20
Tripura	2	21200.00	0.84
Uttar Pradesh	30	252788.06	10.04
Uttaranchal	1	8160.00	0.32
West Bengal	23	275462.00	10.94

Education of Adivasi Children, Gram Mangal (Maharashtra)

Gram Mangal is a grassroots organization working in the area of pre-primary and primary education for over twenty years.

For the past several years, they have also been conducting extended year-long training programs.

The head office of Gram Mangal is in village Aine, a small tribal village in Thane District of Maharashtra state.



The inhabitants of Aine are primarily agricultural workers. They work in the fields from May to December and for the remaining 5 months of the year, they migrate to other nearby cities where they work in brick kilns. They earn Rs 2,500 per month working in the brick kilns while they just survive off the food they grow while working in the fields.

One of the features of Gram Mangal's work is its tailor-made education program for tribal children. They have developed a form of school called Vikaswadi, which takes into account the problems of Adivasi (Tribal) children who are first generation learners. The tribal habitats are scattered and there are about 35 to 40 children, aged 3 to 8, in each hamlet (wadi). Gram Mangal has devised a multilevel non-graded school (a school where a single teacher handles groups from pre-school to third grade of primary school) for these children. This is a very common situation in India where a single teacher has to manage more than one grade at a time. The innovative approach of Gram Vikas has received appreciation from both the government and NGOs working in the field of education.

Gram Mangal has also set up Balwadis and Muktashalas in Aine. The Balwadis, located in the heart of the villages themselves, provide education from the pre-primary level to the 3rd grade. The teachers in the Balwadis belong to the villages themselves. The Muktashala, which is located away from the villages, provides education and housing for students from grades 4 to 7. The teachers at Muktashalas are trained teachers from other villages/cities.

Visiting the project, Nihal Ladiwala writes "I strongly believe that the people at Gram Mangal are doing a great job. They have a unique but effective style of teaching. They are very dedicated to their objective of providing the tribal children with an education and subsequently an opportunity to progress in life. On the whole, the Muktashala was clean and neat, the kids were well kept and the atmosphere was warm and friendly. The children were also provided with wholesome food."

Asha-Atlanta supported Gram Mangal in 2007 with \$14000.

Government School Intervention Rural Education Welfare and Resource Development Trust (REWARD) Trust, Tamil Nadu.

REWARD trust focuses on improving the quality of government schools in areas around Kalpakkam, which falls under the Thirukazhukundram & Thiruporur taluks of the Kanchipuram District.

Many government schools in the region do not have sufficient number of teachers to cater to the increased student population. Till appointments of additional teachers are made by the govt, which can sometimes take a few years, the local Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is expected to shoulder the responsibility of appointing teachers. Since most of the PTA is starved of funds, they do so only on the basis of external support. It is here that REWARD has stepped in. It has appointed 34 additional teachers to six schools (three of which are high schools, two, middle schools and one, a higher secondary school), and provided them training to improve the quality of teaching and the pass percentages. 2400 students are directly benefiting from the initiative.

Over the course of last year, REWARD conducted 10 teacher training sessions, one every month. These are day long sessions aimed at improving the quality of teaching. The trustees focus on a few things:

- The teacher's own understanding of the concepts being taught.
- The teacher's ability to communicate the concept to the student in the simplest way.
- The use of teaching aids – visual aids, charts, models and science experiments to illustrate concepts.
- Use of inquiry to promote understanding.

Of the sessions, one was an introduction to computers conducted by volunteers from Infosys. Teachers were given incentives at the end of the year, in addition to their salaries. These incentives were based on the teacher evaluations during the year as well as the written teacher evaluation tests undertaken by the teachers. Over the course of this time, there has



been a noticeable improvement in the quality of teaching imparted by the teachers.

The results speak for themselves. Over the two years of the Asha REWARD experiment, the reduction in class sizes and addition of teachers, and the training of these teachers systematically in content and delivery has translated into measurable, quantitative improvements in outgoing pass percentages of the students in the Tamil Nadu State Board Public examinations in all the schools. Vayalur High school showed a three fold increase from 18% in 2006 to 57% overall pass in 2007. Manamai Higher Secondary School showed a four fold increase from 20% in 2006 to 73% overall pass in 2007 in its Class XII examination. In Vengapakkam the overall pass percentage in the Class 10 Tamil Nadu State Board Examination increased from 82 % in 2006 to 100 % in 2007. Vengapakkam has maintained its top position in Thirukazhukundram-a record for this Taluk.

The Silicon Valley chapter supported the work of REWARD Trust with \$70,677 during 2007.

Community Education Centers

Asha Samajik Vidyalaya (Gonwara – Samastipur District, Bihar)

Asha Samajik Vidyalaya was started in 2005 by Manoj Kumar, an Asha volunteer, with the objective of initiating the process of education among the Mushar and Chamar communities in a tola (hamlet) called Gonwara in Samastipur district of Bihar. These Dalit communities are landless and most of them, including children below the age of 14, work in brick kilns. The total population of the tola is about 300. The major issues are untouchability, exploitation, poverty, illiteracy and consequent lack of awareness.

This project has identified education as one of the ways to empower these communities and bring them into the mainstream society. The nearest government school was around





1.5 kilometers and the small children could not go there, hence the need to start a school within easy reach. The vision of this team is to use education as a tool for initiating a social movement whereby such marginalized communities can fight for their own rights and improve their conditions by spreading awareness about government facilities, raising issues of child labor, exploitation, low income, and raising consciousness among the community members about their right to information - all as part of a much needed people's movement.

The main goal of the project is to create an interest in education and help the children in these communities to become part of the regular schooling system with the aid of community education centers. There are around 40 children (age range 3-14 years) currently enrolled in the Vidyalaya. The project team uses play and learn methods to teach students. Children learn to read and write in Hindi and basic English. They also learn how to perform mathematical operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and also get opportunities for creative thinking using arts and crafts. The project is trying to enroll the students in government schools so that they can use government facilities like scholarships, mid-day meals and free books. Currently there are four teachers who are working with the children

Initially Asha-Philadelphia was supporting only the school in Gonwara, but it has extended support to two more centers in nearby areas. The first is in Mahe and has 20 children of different castes and the other is at Denghrahi with 40 children of Mushar community.

Reaching out to Remote Corners Ratanmani Vidyalaya (Tripura)

Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) has been working since 1988 for the promotion of health, environment vocational and basic education and income generation for rural communities in inaccessible areas of Tripura.

The organization is federated with Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi. VHAI has initiated the Khoj project for improving the conditions of women and children throughout the country through the state Voluntary Health Associations. The Khoj Project of Tripura is being run by VHAT at Baisnabpur of Sabroom sub-division since 1994. It covers 14 inaccessible Panchayats adjoining the Chittagong Hill Tract of Bangladesh. People from all over the Rupaichari block avail the health care services of the project. More than 99% of these Panchayats are inhabited by adivasis.

Ratanmani Vidyalaya is a residential school being run by VHAT for poor adivasi children who otherwise don't have any access to education. It started in 1994 as a non-formal education center for the dropout and non-school going children and got recognition from the state education department in 2000 as a formal primary school. The school currently has 160 children, with hostel facilities for 60 children. A few of these children get a nominal stipend from the state Tribal Welfare Department, which, however, is insufficient to meet the needs of all the children. Asha-UIUC has been providing additional support to the school since 2004.

Sathish Gopalakrishnan visited the school in August and writes: "As an overall evaluation, Ratanmani Vidyalaya and VHAT are performing a tremendous task. I believe Asha should continue to support Ratanmani Vidyalaya".



Children with special Needs

— Vidyasagar, Chennai

Avanti Kulkarni, Asha DC

Founded in 1985, Vidyasagar (formerly known as the Spastics Society of India) was started in a small garage by Ms Poonam Natrajan, the mother of a profoundly disabled child. From its humble inception 22 years ago, the school has blossomed into a well-coordinated and structured organization that is admired and respected for its initiative of integration and holistic development of the disabled. As of today, Vidyasagar impacts the lives of about 3500 disabled people per year including infants, adults and children.

Though focused primarily on individuals with cerebral palsy (for more information on Cerebral Palsy in India, visit <http://www.cerebralpalsyindia.com/>), the organization also provides services to people with other neurological impairments such as autism, mental retardation and learning disabilities. In their own words “No one issue of disability can be tackled in isolation.” The school thus provides a spectrum of educational, vocational and physical therapy based services, access to transport and computers for special needs. Students attending this school display broad demographics in terms of age, level of education and socio-economic background.

One of Vidyasagar’s core beliefs is in the right to equality of opportunity, which starts with tackling disability as a fundamental human rights issue. This is especially relevant in light of that fact that cerebral palsy is reported to affect, approximately, a staggering 2.5 million children in India (2004 report-The Tribune-Chandigarh). Since the disorder primarily affects motor coordination (speech, gaze, gait and movement) leading to a wheelchair bound existence, an important part of their assimilation into mainstream society is the availability of both adequate transportation and communication and services/facilities. Vidyasagar provides for both.

The curriculum integrates both occupational and physical therapy components including the provision of special computers and keyboards for students whose motor incoordination hampers handling of writing equipment. Many of these students are able to communicate effectively, even passing state level board exams exclusively through the use of such technology. As such, the staff at Vidyasagar believes computers are going to be an indispensable part of the process of



integration and self reliance for these students and it was a major component of the funding proposal provided to Asha-DC by the school.

Additionally, the campus also hosts a play area, a computer room, an occupational therapy room (for children with sensory issues), a physiotherapy room, a resource library for staff, a toy library, a children's library, an auditorium, activity rooms and hostel facilities. The school focuses on both formal basic education (reading, writing and math) and vocational training for the students. Painting, making paper, and leather products and bead work are some of the basic arts and crafts taught at Vidyasagar. This training goes a long way in instilling a sense of confidence and independence in the students as the products are often saleable commodities. Vidyasagar also holds training programs to raise general awareness about disabilities amongst society. These sessions are led by special consultants and educators for teachers, peers, friends and families of the students.

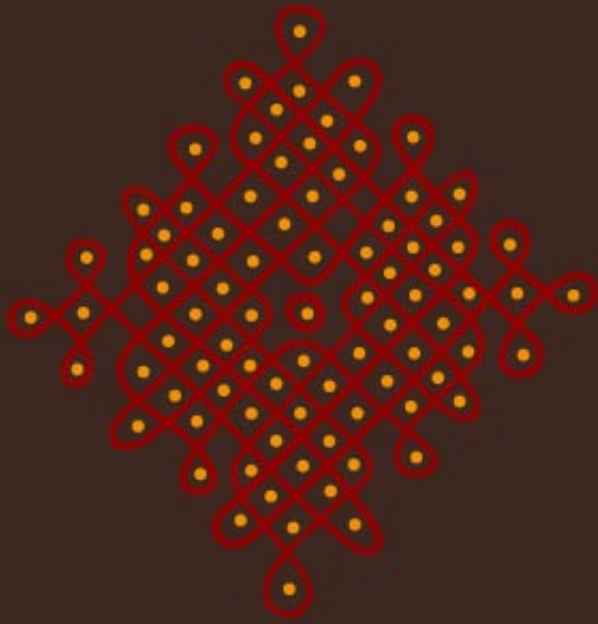
The other major hurdle to be overcome is the issue of mobility. Vidyasagar believes that a primary barricade to self reliance amongst the disabled in India is the lack of adequate facilities and infrastructure supporting the use of wheelchairs. The school provides transportation support and facilities for its students on a daily basis, the cost of which is largely borne by the school, and the school premises themselves are completely wheelchair accessible. Notably, the school is working with various public and private organizations to introduce legislation that mandates such handicap accesses on a state wide and eventually nationwide level.

A very important component of their integration mission is the "inclusion cell" program in which the school works actively to assist students in gaining admission into mainstream schools and colleges. Once a child is admitted, Vidyasagar continues to provide therapy, moral support and emotional counseling. This work is performed in collaboration with the government-run and funded "Sarva Siksha Abhiyan" (SSA) program. Vidyasagar-appointed special educators work with

SSA in six zones in Chennai city covering about 300 government schools to facilitate inclusion of these children and to monitor their progress. The inclusion cell program has met with considerable success with several students having gained admission into mainstream schools and colleges such as Loyola College, Nungambakkam, Stella Maris College, Gopalapuram and Madras Christian College to name a few.

Vidyasagar is largely supported by the community itself with about 55% of its total budgetary expenses met through annual fundraisers and donations from individuals and charities. Only about 16% of its total budget is supported by the central government, another 15% from the Children's Christian Fund of Canada and the rest through sales of its own greeting cards, student fees, and miscellaneous contributions. In 2006 Asha-DC provided approximately \$13,000 in funds for the much needed special computers mentioned above.





National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

– An indirect nexus to education

Rajeev Annaluru, Asha-MIT/Boston

The problem of improving the educational scenario in India can be theorized as consisting of two distinctive challenges. The first challenge is to get a child enrolled and be kept enrolled in the school while the second is to provide quality education to the children who show up in school. According to a recent UNICEF statistic, only an estimated 76% of the children are enrolled in schools in India. 40% of the children who are enrolled end up dropping out of school by the age of 10. These numbers translate into a whopping 100+ million children below the age of 15 who are not in school. Socio-economic change would be a hard thing to bring about without addressing such a dismal state of literacy rate in society.

Despite numerous initiatives by the govt. and NGOs specifically targeting the problem, enrolling and retaining the children in school has remained a challenge. The reasons for failure of these programs run deep into the territory of the gangrenous socio-economic state of affairs prevailing in India. Improvement in school enrollment rates cannot be expected without any betterment in the socio-economics and vice versa. Any effort to break this stalemate between education and socio-economics should start with thoroughly understanding the factors that result in a parent putting a child at work instead of at school.

Lack of livelihood is probably the greatest impediment to an improvement in school enrollment / retention rate and an instigator for child labor. From a parent's perspective the basic necessities of life like food, shelter and clothing largely precede the necessity for education. The natural tendency of a parent is to educate their kids, but not at the cost of the kid and the entire family going hungry. Even if the hungry child does end up coming to the school, we cannot expect active learning to take place with the child being malnourished. According to the latest data collated by the National Health Survey in 2005-06 the all India average for malnourished children is 47%. Migration is another major issue that leads to an already enrolled child dropping out of school. Lack of sustainable livelihood resources in villages results in parents seasonally migrating to urban areas leading to school dropouts.

The problem of education and socio-economic change is like the conundrum of the chicken and the egg. Instead of looking at the problem as two different challenges and wondering which one to address first, it would help to think of a holistic solution that addresses both at the problems at the same time. It is in this context that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) can be used as an effective tool to address both the challenges.



NREGA is a legislation enacted by the Indian parliament in 2005 that provides a legal guarantee of one hundred days of employment every year to every member of a rural household who is willing to do unskilled manual work. This act was introduced with an aim to improve the purchasing power of the rural populace by leveraging the enormous amount of human resource that is left untapped in rural India to create / improve the much needed rural infrastructure. Works like building roads, water conservation activities, afforestation, land development, drought proofing and other public village infrastructural facilities that can be built through manual labor can be taken up under the EGS (employment guarantee scheme).

NREGA is unlike any of the predecessor poverty alleviation / wage guarantee programs. It is essentially a right provided by the constitution for employment. NREGA is characterized by various interesting paradigm shifts from its preceding programs like fixing the minimum wages at Rs 80 / day, equal wages for men and women, payment of wages through direct deposits into bank accounts, imposing a ban on work-contracting/middlemen, unemployment allowances in cases where employment is not provided within 15 days of the initial request, defining norms on work place related facilities, making social audits an integral part of the framework etc.. Despite the path-breaking concepts that NREGA envisages, it has so far failed to live up to its true potential. NREGA is designed as a demand-driven program which means employment provision is based on the wage seeker's choice to claim employment. Hence its effectiveness depends on the extent to which unemployed individuals come forward to seek employment. It is here that NREGA faces an old and familiar foe called lack of "awareness". Given that a majority of rural India is plagued by illiteracy, the uneducated rural Indian doesn't know enough to realize that getting employment is his/her right and he/she needs to step forward and ask for it.

There have been numerous reports of EGA implementation being fraught with serious irregularities and corruption. Swindling of funds right from the state level all the way down to the gram panchayat level has been widely reported in the media. Funds have been leaking into corrupt pockets through every

possible loop hole in the NREGA frame work. Muster being cooked up, employment seekers having to pay to apply for a job, job cards not being issued, employment requests being denied, workers being forced to take wages in cash, minimum wage requirements not being met and women being marginalized - to name a few - are some of the cracks in the leaking pot.

The one silver bullet with the potential to address most, if not all, of the irregularities is the pro-active public participation in the implementation of NREGA. Studies reveal that the blatant corruption in the EGS implementation is substantially reduced in those areas where NGOs take a lead role in organizing the masses and coordinate with the state authorities to maintain a transparent and accountable implementation of the Act. The positive impact of the involvement of NGOs is strikingly evident in Rajasthan where MKSS (Mazdoor Kisan Shakthi Sanghatan) led the awareness movement. Similar positive results could be found in locations in Uttar Pradesh where Asha Ashram operates and in some locations in Andhra Pradesh where the AP farmers' union operates.

The deduction from the above examples is quite clear - the need of the hour really is a grassroot level sensitization of the employment seeker towards the regulations of the NREGA statute and grassroot level activities like organizing awareness campaigns, social audits, procuring information through Right To Information (RTI) etc. Asha for Education has made a start in that direction by supporting "Fellowships" to individuals like N. Muthyalappa and Mahesh Bhai who are leading an effort to improve the NREGA implementation. Asha is also supporting an NGO called Mukti which is making use of NREGA to implement projects such as digging ponds for pisciculture and planting coconuts. However, given the size of population that NREGA targets and the enormous amount of NREGA funds being lost in corruption, it is imperative that efforts are stepped up to a much larger scale to sensitize a greater number of citizenry. Not only would such an effort improve school enrollment and literacy rates, it will also provide other far reaching benefits associated with improving rural infrastructure and irrigation systems and stem the migration of rural populace to urban areas.



A Project Site Visit

Vishal Kudchadkar, Asha LA

Site visits play a critical role in ensuring the effectiveness of Asha projects. We try to ensure that a visit is conducted at least once a year to the initiatives we support. The visits are typically done by volunteers or well-wishers of Asha. These visits help Asha understand the issues faced by the community first hand, ensure that the funds are being deployed effectively, understand the needs and priorities, and build bridges with the project personnel, the children and the local communities.

The visit report highlighted below illustrates some of these.

Visit Report to Basera-E-Tabessum Kupwara , Jammu & Kashmir

As the pilot announced the flight's descent into Srinagar, the lush forests surrounding the green rice fields dotted by rustic dwellings reminded me of my hometown - Goa. But as we drew nearer to the airport the serene green gave way to the olive green. With tall fences, outposts, towers and barracks the airport was more like a fort. A rude reminder that this was Srinagar, not Goa.

The Los Angeles chapter of AfE has been supporting Borderless World Foundation's child home in Kupwara for the last two years and as a steward I decided I needed to visit it to learn things first hand. So, this July, with Adik Kadam, the co-founder of BWF by my side I set on what my friends called "Mission Kashmir".

The majority of the children at the child home are orphans who lost their parent(s) due to the two decade militancy in the area. Others come from economically backward backgrounds and have lost their parent(s) to accidents. A few of them were orphaned by the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake. The child home is exclusively for the girl child. The home at Kupwara has 40 children. BWF also has 2 relatively new child homes at Anantnag (10 children) and Budgam (12 children).

Kupwara welcomed me with a dead silence. A few hours before I arrived, the market place had witnessed an encounter in which 3 militants were killed and 1 civilian – a pregnant school teacher – died in the crossfire. It so happened that the flight was delayed by three hours. The incident replayed the atmosphere which the children are subjected to pretty often. The tension on the streets as I walked to the hostel was palpable.



A little worried, I entered the hostel only to be greeted by the playful noises from the children. A couple of days later when I met a psychologist of Doctors without Borders, he emphasized the importance of having an environment for the children to help them cope with violent incidents like these.

The hostel is a rented pucca structure with 9 rooms, 3 toilets and a kitchen. Two of larger rooms double up as joint study and play rooms. One of the rooms is assigned to guests and volunteers that visit the hostel. The hostel is equipped with electricity and sufficient lighting. Drinking water is brought from a hand pump while water for bath, washing etc is supplied through water tankers. A decent open space in the backyard provides for evening recreation.

The children are very appreciative of the value-education imparted by the volunteers of BWF. Shaheen (name changed), a 7th std student, told me, “Bhaiya and Didi [Adik and Bharati, co founders of BWF] have taught us things that our parents should have. We have learnt how to behave in society, how to respect others and how to live with love and affection”. The children enjoy their weekly crib session where all the children openly share what they liked or did not like about BWF, the hostel, the warden or the fellow children. All issues and conflicts are resolved openly and amicable in the presence of all the children. To achieve this, in an area where bullets are used to resolve conflicts, is a testament to the change BWF hopes to create.

This journey had begun two years ago after reading a newspaper article in Indian Express about Adik Kadam and Bharati Mamani’s work. After doing the necessary homework, the LA chapter picked up the project despite the obvious logistical difficulties – not having volunteers and donors from the region, less frequent site visits, greater need to ensure accountability given the situation in Kashmir. We started off with 5 Asha Stars sending \$1500 in 2006 and then \$2000 in 2007. In 2008, in collaboration with the Asha-Silicon Valley chapter, through the Sponsor A Child program, all 40 children in

Kupwara will be supported. The funds from the LA chapter would go to the children in Anantnag. That would amount to \$14,000 in 2008!

Yet this is only a small beginning in Kashmir where over 25,000 children have been orphaned by the violence. In a place where children have seen more corpses than toys, heard more wails than nursery rhymes, it is a humble attempt to create an environment where the resilient children who have dared to dream - a dream to be a doctor, an engineer, a teacher and even a chief minister - can realize their potential. The dream shared by volunteers and donors of Asha - Our hearts, Their minds, One Hope!





Fundraisers and Awareness Events

*Compiled by Avanti Kulkarni, Asha DC
(Inputs received from different chapter volunteers)*

In addition to the TeamAsha marathon, which is the major fundraising event for several chapters, many chapters also hosted other fundraising events including cultural & food festivals, melas, concerts & recitals and walkathons to help support our cause. In most cases, these events served just as much to raise awareness about Asha and its mission as to raise much needed funds for projects. We profile some of these events below.

Geetanjali - Seattle chapter, March 2007

This annual Tamil music concert was held for the fourth consecutive year. The group, which features a talented bunch of local musicians from the Puget Sound area, performed to a house-full audience of 650 at the Northshore Performing Arts Center. This was the biggest and most successful Tamil music concert of its kind in the area with tickets selling out even before the event started! The concert was a blast and there was great audience participation. Champa Mahila Society and Senchiamma school projects were highlighted during this event. Funds raised - \$6,847

Holi - Stanford chapter, March 2007

Holi is Asha-Stanford's flagship event. A whole day affair, it is one of the biggest events of the bay area, attracting over 2300 people this year with many flying in from as far away as New York and Chicago to participate in the fun and festivities. This year's event was catered by Saffron Indian Bistro. Water and colors were provided by Asha-Stanford. It was a fun-filled atmosphere with a DJ belting out popular numbers. The event involves considerable planning and preparations start almost 4 months in advance; permission from different campus departments, security arrangements, traffic enforcement, first aid etc. The university also provides an on-site ambulance to take care of any emergencies! The event was, however, mishap free and, as always, a big success. Funds raised - \$32,793

Spring Dinner - Cornell chapter, April 2007

Famed to be the most authentic Indian vegetarian food experience on the Cornell campus, the Asha Spring Dinner is a widely attended event and one of Asha-Cornell's major spring



fundraisers. It was partially funded by Student Assembly Finance Commission and held at Okenshield's Dining Hall on the Cornell campus. The food included a dozen different vegetarian dishes, including appetizers and desserts, cooked by the volunteers themselves under the guidance of an expert Okenshield chef. A new initiative at the dinner held this time was the sale of artwork by students from the Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha, a project in West Bengal supported by the chapter (<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=278>). Funds raised - \$5,107

Rainbow II - Central NJ chapter, April 2007

A concert that featured a unique blend of world famous poetry set to Indian classical dance and music. Composed by Grammy award winner Pandit Vishwamohan Bhat, it included poems by Shakespeare, Keats, Wordsworth, Tagore, Lord Byron and Maya Angelou. It was a sure treat for classical music and poetry enthusiasts and a great way to raise awareness. Funds raised - Broke even through volunteer donations.

Zaayka Indian Food Festival - Salt lake City chapter, May 2007

Catered by well-known local area restaurants - Himalayan Kitchen, Royal India, Taj India, Taste of Punjab and New Delhi Palace - an assortment of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes and delicacies from all parts of India were served up buffet style. The event was a big success, attracting over 300 people. Funds raised - \$1,375

Maya Dance Theater - Salt lake City chapter, August 2007

Critically acclaimed dancer and actress Shobana and her troupe enthralled audience at the Rose Wagner Theater with performances that included interpretations of episodes from





the Ramayana, and adaptation of the dance form to Flamenco music and A.R. Rehman's Vande Mataram. The event also paid tribute to the legendary dancer and actress Padmini. Sponsors for the event included the Dinesh and Kalpana Patel Foundation, India Forum of Utah, Dr. Sneha Kumar Kasera, Dr. Ashok Joshi and Dr. Srinivasan Venkateswaran. Funds raised - \$2,726

Notes of Hope - Washington DC chapter, September 2007

Asha-DC's annual fall fundraiser featured not one, but two different performers this time. After two successive events in 2005 and 2006 featuring renowned Hindustani classical artists, the team felt it was time for a change and decided to invite the Carnatic musician Mandolin U. Shrinivas. A child prodigy who has performed since the age of six, Shrinivas was trained first by his father before developing his own style on the mandolin, an instrument that had typically not been used before in Carnatic music. Accompanying Shrinivas were his brother U Rajesh, S.V. Ramani on the ghatam (clay pot) and Samir Chatterjee on the tabla.

While arrangements were being made with the artist, an opportunity arose to feature a troupe of visually handicapped dancers from the Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, located in Bangalore. This was a project that Asha for Education had supported in the past and the dance troupe had received acclaim around the world in earlier performances. Having heard rave reviews of the group from their earlier performances in the US, Asha-DC jumped at the opportunity to bring them in for Notes of Hope.

This year, the event was designed to raise funds for Vidyasagar, a project in Chennai aiming to help with inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream schools and it was a big success.

Funds raised - \$92





Musafir - Cornell chapter, October 2007

This was an Indian gypsy folk music and dance concert organized in collaboration with the South Asia Program (SAP), featuring a musical troupe “The Musafir.” Using many folk and gypsy musical instruments, they enthralled the 450-plus audience with spellbinding acrobatics of dance forms representing the dunes of the Thar desert. The event was partially funded by Cornell Concerts Commission, The Rose Goldsen Fund, and Cornell Department of Theater Arts.

Funds raised - \$5,000

AllGoRhythms - Seattle chapter, October 2007

This was a highly successful Hindi music concert played by a local band of the same name held annually by the chapter. In 2007, Asha-Seattle hosted two consecutive performances on October 20th and 21st at Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island. As in previous years, the concert was a huge success with a great turnout.

Funds raised - \$8,305



Variety entertainment show “V” - Stanford chapter, November 2007

Four live bands and two dance troupes from all over the bay area enthralled a 220-plus crowd at this Stanford chapter’s fall fundraiser. The bands included ‘Dhwani’, a Stanford Indian music group, ‘Ya Raagapella’, a South-Asian focus a-capella group, ‘Ehsaas’, a bay area group that performs Bollywood music, and ‘Minute Maze, a bay area group that plays rock. The dance troupes included a Stanford Bharatanatyam group and a bay area Bollywood dance group. The event began at 7pm, and ended by 10:30pm followed by the audience hitting the dance floor themselves till the stroke of midnight. “V” was catered by local area restaurant Tabla and was a huge success.

Funds raised - \$2,098



Walkathon - Houston chapter in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Library in Houston, October 2007

This was primarily an awareness/advertising event. Asha volunteers coordinated the 5K Gandhi Walkathon with banners about Mahatma Gandhi's vision of peace and non-violence. Over 200 people attended the event including the Harris county congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee.

Asha-16 Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, May 2007

The Sixteenth Asha Conference was hosted by the Central New Jersey, Philadelphia and Princeton chapters at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick, NJ, from May 26-28. Close to 100 volunteers representing 23 chapters attended the conference, all paying for their own expenses. It was a great opportunity for volunteers across the chapters to meet each other face-to-face, and exchange ideas and best practices.

Dr Vinod Raina and Mr E. S. Ramamurthy were the keynote speakers of the conference. Dr. Raina discussed the current status of the Right to Education Bill. Mr. Ramamurthy made a forceful argument for focusing on improving the state of Government schools in India.

Talk by Arvind Kejriwal of Parivartan (U-Florida, Gainesville)

Magsaysay Award winner Arvind Kejriwal of Parivartan gave a talk on Right To Information. He cited several examples where RTI has been used effectively by ordinary citizens and communities to bring accountability to govt. programs.

Petition to Save the Right to Education (RTE) Bill

Asha volunteers sent a new petition to the Indian government and sent emails to Indian govt. officials to save the RTE Bill.

Last year, the central govt. had decided to drop the bill and pass it on to the states as a model bill. Right now, however, there is a renewed interest both at a civil society level as well as a governmental level to look at the bill again.

Talk by Mr. Chattopadhyay of Jananee and Ma (Zurich)

The project leader of Jananee and Ma, Mr. Chattopadhyay, visited the chapter in December 2007 and gave a first hand overview of the project. Volunteers were able to learn from his report that there are many interested and motivated individuals in India who want to bring socio-economic changes through basic education, making the work of groups such as Asha even more significant. His visit was a memorable event for the Asha-Zurich volunteers and his talk revived their enthusiasm.





Candlelight Vigil - Seattle, October 2007

This event was held in partnership with two other area non-profits: Association for India's Development (AID) and Sangati. The Vigil was held in solidarity and support of Indian farmers who have resorted to the extreme measure of suicide in large numbers in the face of extreme social and economic distress brought about by inflation, rising input costs and the callousness/lack of support from the government. So far this crisis has claimed the lives of an estimated 100,000 poor farmers over the last ten years. Over 1,440 farmers ended their lives in 2006 alone in the Vidarbha region.

The event commenced with a peaceful half mile march by 20 volunteers and friends of AID-Seattle, Asha-Seattle and Sangati from Bellevue to Redmond. Several participants held placards that read "Support Sustainable Agriculture", "Jai Kisan", "Suicides: the symptom not the cause" and "100,000 suicides in a decade, Act Now, Act Fast!".

The event attracted considerable attention with several passers-by requesting to see the signs and many drivers honking in support. It was also covered by a local KBCS whose correspondent Arpana Sanjay spent 45 minutes interviewing the volunteers. The vigil itself was attended by 40 people and started with an introduction by AID volunteer Anand. This was followed by the reading of testimonials of farmers and incidences of their plight collected by Asha volunteer Hareesh Veldandi. Everyone in the vigil also read out names of Vidharbha farmers who had lost their lives in September. The Vigil concluded with a two minute silence in memory of the farmers and singing of the national anthem.



Asha Sanctuary Youth Workshop, New Delhi

Asha Sanctuary focus-group, the Princeton chapter, Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice, Delhi and volunteers of Asha-Delhi organized a short workshop for about 40 youth from three or



ganizations: Prayas, Abhas, and Navshrishiti. These youngsters are undergoing vocational training and also attending schools. Many of them are enrolled with National Institute of Open School and will be taking either their 8th, 10th, or 12th class exam.

In spite of regular classes at school and vocational training, there is still a gap in terms of what is necessary for the individual to be successful - broadly called life skills education in the non-profit sector. In this case, it involved basic inter-personal interaction. Teenagers often do not know what options are available, and exposure opportunities would go a long way to help them make informed decisions.

The objectives of the Delhi workshop were to give exposure to vocational training modules and variations in training methods, promote proactive resource sharing among NGO/govt. agencies dealing with adolescent skills training and a moderated discussion amongst themselves on informal life skills. What we learnt from this workshop is that given a chance, the youth are willing and able to articulate their needs and we should be willing to listen to them.

Asha Fellows Conference, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu, December 2007

A conference of the Asha Fellows, held at Bharathi trust in Thiruvallur district, brought fellows together to share work in the areas of RTI, NREGA, healthcare, curriculum improvement, Gender Equity, Children At Risk, Natural Resource Management and community ownership, ecology and legal help for women.

Talk by Prof. Anil K. Gupta of Honey Bee Network, London, March 2007

Padmashree Prof. Anil K. Gupta of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad is currently the Kasturbhai

Lalbhai Chair in Entrepreneurship, and the Co-ordinator and co founder of the SRISTI and Honey Bee Networks respectively. He spoke to Asha volunteers and students of the London Business School on 29th March on the subject of education, the benefits and drawbacks of the current system of education and the empowerment of the poor.

The Honey Bee Network began with the concept of exploitation and the idea that everyone from landlords to academics exploit – i.e. we take human or intellectual capital and ‘exploit’ it in any number ways for our own needs. However flowers don’t exploit – they give away. They attract bees to themselves, and when nectar is removed, they make some more! Honey Bee seeks to protect the ‘knowledge rights’ of those that innovate, and ensures that the benefits of the innovation, both monetary and social, go to the person and community where they originated. The poor and those in rural areas may be at the bottom of the economic pyramid, but they are not at the bottom in other pyramids – certainly not the ‘education’, ethical or the creative pyramids. Dr. Gupta shared several innovations made by children, rural farmers, coconut tree climbers etc which are absolutely brilliant in their simplicity and have now become commercialised and in some cases patented

Prof. Gupta noted that tensions among communities and people occur when there is a lack of self respect, when people feel disenfranchised. This needs to change, and perhaps education is one of the significant ways in which we can help. He felt that a new ethical system is emerging in the global market for small entrepreneurs and was very hopeful that this will continue.

Prof. Gupta’s talk was followed by 45 minutes of Q&A. His talk and time spent with the volunteers was uplifting, rejuvenating and inspiring. Nearly all of the volunteers walked away with a renewed sense of commitment to Asha and the work we all seek to do.

***Note: A special ‘Thank You’ to all the volunteers who contributed with the documentation of the article.*



Asha Marathon

– The Fundraiser

Shachi Patel, Asha Silicon Valley

“Win-Win” is the word often used in the negotiation and conflict resolution. However, it can aptly describe the Asha Fundraising experience as well, together with “fun”, “creative”, and “energetic”. And it is that win-win appeal of the Marathon program, which has made it not only the highest fund raising event but also the steadily growing event at Asha for Education.

Asha for Education’s Marathon program, now known as Team Asha, started in the year 2000 at the Silicon Valley chapter with around 10 participants. Now, in its 9th year, it is flourishing in 18 chapters reaching hundreds of participants. The simple premise of this program is: Team Asha trains the participants to complete half or full marathon while the participants raise a specific amount of money for Asha cause. Make no mistake, the program is an endurance sports program spanning over six months of intensive training for the full marathoners and three months of equally rigorous training for the half marathoners. However, the program is designed in such a way that it trains, not only the people “who have never ran a mile before” to be able to successfully finish 26.2 miles of distance, but also trains aspiring athletes to achieve new heights of personal fitness.

The program typically starts in April with the kick-off event where the prospective marathoners get the detailed information about the training regiment, and the fund raising commitments from the Team Asha organizers. The actual training follows few weeks later under the guidance of accomplished coaches who are marathoners themselves. Initial stretching sessions introduce runners to the proper techniques which are crucial for injury prevention. Having thoroughly prepared for pre and post running routine, the future marathoners start their six month long journey by running one mile. The carefully designed program adds one or two miles every week for the long runs leading up to 22 miles for full marathon.

In about six months, under the customized guidance of the coaches to each and every runner, all the runners went from self doubters to pace lovers, and achieved the outstanding objective of crossing the finish line. During the process they not only realize the magical benefits of running but also attain the supreme joy of affecting the life of a child with every progressive step. And hence the appeal of “Win-Win,” where Team Asha provides every runner with the means to change their own lives for better with enhanced physical health and



runners through their fund raising effort provide under privileged children with means of education.

Of course, there cannot be such a mutually beneficial system without the support of countless volunteers. The Team Asha volunteers usually include coaches, mentors, program coordinators, fund raising coordinators, treasurer, travel coordinators, webmaster, event coordinators and many more. Coaches and mentors help runners with training by offering motivation and strong team support through weekday and weekend runs, speed workouts, cross training workshops, and strength training. The coordinators handle all other aspects of the marathon programs such as fund raising clinics, running trail schedules and permits, nutritional supply for runs, travel arrangements, shoe clinics, accounting, donation receipts, website management, social events and much more. To better educate the runners about their overall health, programs also conduct clinics by inviting experts from various fields such as sports medicine, nutrition, sports gear, chiropractic etc. Water stop volunteers wake up 5am on Saturday mornings to supply water and nutrition to runners on their long distance runs and program coordinators spend about 25-30 hours a week for six months to ensure professionally managed program. As a runner I can vouch that I felt very well “taken care of” during entire 2007 marathon season at the Silicon Valley chapter.

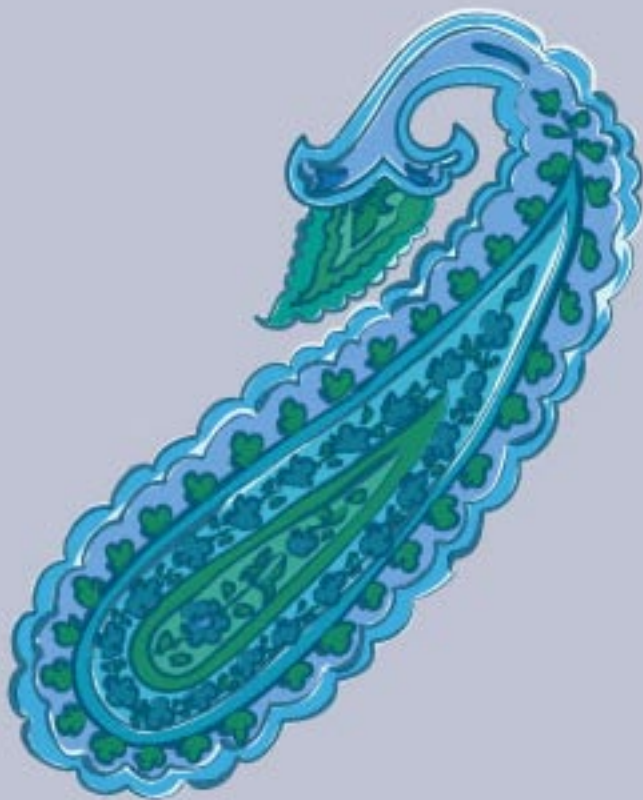
Despite the hard work associated with the marathon programs, each and every member of Team Asha cherishes the training experience as a “life changing” experience. Coach Tony Fong of SV chapter has run over 70 marathons including many Boston marathons in past 17 years. Coach Rajeev Char has participated in over 30 triathlons and 5 Ironmans. And these accomplished coaches inspire many runners to become lifelong athletes. At the end of the program, the runners receive much more than just the medal; they achieve, in the words of Kashyap, a Team Asha member, “sense of satisfaction and pride”.

Even as Team Asha’s marathon program is a six month long enduring effort, I would still use the same words to describe

it: “fast” “fun”, and “energetic”. Every year, Team Asha finds scores of volunteers who carry the baton forward to make another successful season. The Silicon Valley chapter marathon program that started in year 2000 with around 10 participants has since then trained 750 marathoners in past 8 years with 99% of success rate. The TeamAsha 2007 Silicon Valley program reached 181 marathoners and raised around \$270,000, roughly 40% of the total funds raised through all 2007 TeamAsha programs, at 18 North America chapters. Needless to say, this will bring millions of smiles for thousands of children in India!

For more information, please visit: <http://team-asha.org>





Asha for Children's Education (ACE) 2007

– *The Making*

Ravi Mundoli, Asha-Hyderabad

At least one reason why ACE 2007 happened is possibly geological. It is conjectured that about 65 million years ago, something called the Deccan Traps explosion may have caused one of the largest extinctions recorded. What is known for sure is that it resulted in an outpouring of molten material that cooled and hardened into much of the rock of the Deccan Plateau.

After lying undisturbed for millennia, the landscape started changing with the rolling in of the 20th and 21st centuries. Global and local factors conspired to turn Hyderabad into one of India's poster children for "growth" and "economic development". The influx into the city of money and the people who made it was a harbinger of a real-estate and construction boom. Land was gobbled up, and buildings sprung up in the unlikeliest of places. In the morning you drove past a standing crop of paddy; in the evening the slab for the 4th floor was being poured and the EMIs were also pouring in. Concrete needs stone, and stone is begat by rock, and it wasn't long before the kind ministrations of the builders in town

turned to the igneous offerings of the Deccan Traps. The Yelammabanda area of Hyderabad was generously endowed with rock and soon became home to frenetic quarrying. The quarries employ hundreds of laborers in this backbreaking "profession".

The Ramakrishna Upper Primary School (RUPS) was set up to try and make sure that the children of the quarry workers could possibly aspire to lives that were at least marginally better than their parents'. Time will tell whether it is successful in its mission.

Asha-Hyderabad was a late entrant into this drama. When the chapter was established in 2003, like all Asha chapters, we needed a project. When Asha-Hyderabad got involved with RUPS, the school suffered from a high dropout rate. The children who did attend weren't at their playful and attentive best, and a health camp that we organized revealed that most of them were suffering from nutrition linked illnesses. And so it came to be, that the mid-day meal program at RUPS became the Hyderabad chapter's first real Asha project.



Once we had committed to supporting the mid-day meal, we quickly had to rack our brains on how to continue the program and the idea of doing a corporate quiz competition as a fund-raising event took root. Things moved fast and the Asha for Children's Education (ACE) Corporate Quiz was born in 2005. Thanks to the generous support of the International School of Business (ISB) who, to our utter surprise and delight, agreed to lend us their superb auditorium for one afternoon every year without asking for anything in return, to the crazy quizmasters of Quizerati, and to tens of local and out of town companies who sponsored the geeks and trivia buffs from their ranks, ACE was off to a flying start.

Preparations for ACE 2007 kicked off in earnest in January. Having pulled it off for 2 years in a row, we thought we had everything covered. But as they say, every silver lining has a cloud, and this time it was in the form of sponsorships. Leads led to precisely nowhere, calls weren't returned, and a moderate sized black hole apparently made especially for us was diligently swallowing all our emails, apart from sucking up all our enthusiasm en passant. Gloom and despondency began to descend on the few of us who knew the state of affairs, even as the "veterans" put on a brave face so that the "newbies" wouldn't lose heart.

As the date of the quiz drew near, other preparations were in full swing. Powerpoint presentations were churned out, certificates were printed, trophies were ordered, and industrial quantities of chai were drunk in weekly meetings. The week before the big day, the heavens opened up. No, it didn't start pouring in the middle of the salubrious Hyderabad summer. Rather, sponsors started emerging from the woodwork. An entrepreneur who was setting up the Hyderabad branch of her business and was impressed by RUPS, a technologist with a heart of gold, a regular school whose heart went out to its less fortunate counterpart in Kukatpally, and a chapter volunteer with a gift... These then were the pillars on which ACE 2007 was built.

The day of the quiz dawned per usual. What else could it have done? The volunteers sped off from various corners of the

city to the lush ISB campus and we were there in time. To do pretty much nothing! The excellent facilities staff at ISB had already made the auditorium ready, all we had to do was hang up a couple of banners, set up a registration desk, and finish the vitally important task of finding lunch. The participants started trickling in over the course of the afternoon, all brimming with energy and ready to "slaughter" each other at the altar of knowledge. The kids from RUPS sang an invocation and off we went!

The written preliminary round saw everyone chew the tips off their pens as they wrestled with such ponderous issues as what rock band gets its name from a book on thermonuclear war and what would your number be if you were sitting in the "Shakespeare seat" in an aircraft. During the break before the finals, yours truly quickly slipped in our usual song and dance about Asha, Asha-Hyderabad and RUPS, in the hopes of enticing more donors and volunteers. This was tremendously successful in rapidly putting everyone to sleep, and it took all the quizmasters' horses (yes, that was a bit of a surprise) and all the quizmasters' men to wake them up and keep them engrossed. The final was a smash hit thanks to a superb set of questions that were tantalizingly familiar and yet just hard enough to help everyone appreciate the skills of the teams on stage.

When the curtain rang down, we ended with the practice we started in Version 1.0 of getting the RUPS students and not some hi-fi "chief guests" hand out the prizes. As the sun set we found our way to the ISB canteen, tired but happy, a few of us already calculating our profit & loss statement for the event, everyone bubbling over with laughter and conversation and a deep desire for pastries, a feeling that any Asha volunteer around the world who has been part of a fund-raiser is intimately familiar with. We had done it again, even if it was by the skin of our teeth. The mid-day meal program would continue, and so would Asha-Hyderabad.



Asha Fellowships

– Ravi Aluganti, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh

Asha Fellowship Focus Group

It is generally accepted that one of the banes of the primary school system has been the stress on knowledge and skills that would be useful to adult life, though such knowledge and skill might be of little interest to the children at the time they acquire it. For this reason, most of the education in the primary schools is still authoritarian in its ethos, with most of the pressure coming from the teacher. It is no wonder that many surveys identified lack of interest of the students as one of the major reasons for drop-out from schools.

Asha has been trying to reform this situation by 'starting from the child' in select primary schools through the Fellowship program.

Ravi Aluganti is an Asha Fellow working in Madanapalle Mandal of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. Ravi's main focus is on improving the quality of education in these government schools mainly by:

- Working with children (activity based teaching and organizing arts and crafts activities).
- Training interested teachers in multi-grade and activity based teaching.

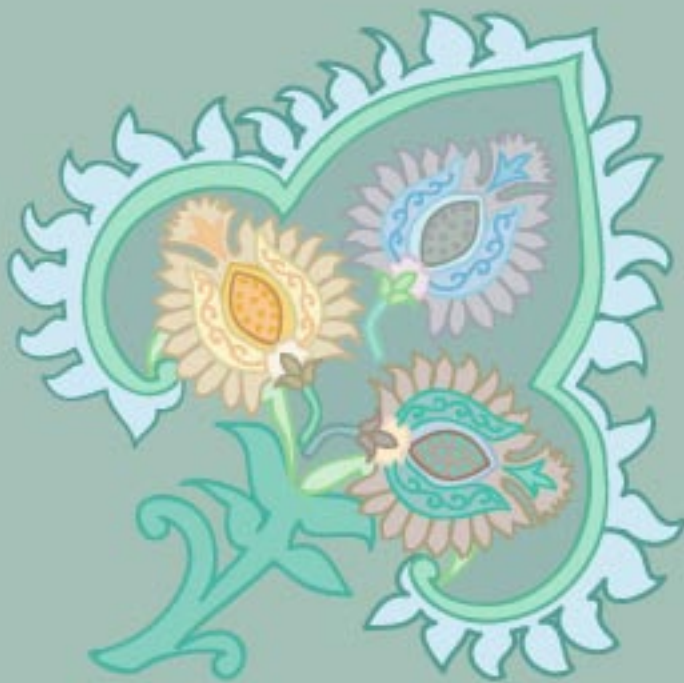
One of the main aspects of Ravi's work is to develop hands-on activities for children of class 1 to 5 in Language Learning, Mathematics and Environmental Studies. These activities are

then linked to the prescribed syllabus and are introduced to the children in schools. Every thing that Ravi teaches is based on some activity. For example, use of paper toys to demonstrate the food chain and life cycle of a butterfly, jigsaw puzzles of country and state to teach geography, a model of the human skeletal system to teach human anatomy etc. Children take very naturally to these learning aids and they often enjoy the practical activities that Ravi designs for them as evident from all the site visit reports. All the activities (like string painting, spray painting, seed collage, paper collage etc) are very cost-effective.

Ravi also started a program called Gramina Vidya Vahini (Mobile Library) in 2003 to inculcate the reading habit among children. Oftentimes, children do not have access to any printed material other than their textbooks. The project initiated a mobile library which issues books on a regular basis so that children can experience the pleasures of reading.

Ravi conducts workshops and teacher training sessions by visiting various organizations. He trains resource persons from other organizations in making teaching aids and has also developed teaching aids for other Asha partners and for the government teachers that he works with.

Asha-Seattle has been supporting the fellowship program since 2001 and the mobile library project since 2003.



Asha Internship Program

*Gagan Kanjlia, Asha DC
Hansa Shah, Asha Princeton &
Srikanth Voorakaranam, Asha Dallas*

The objective of the internship program is to connect individuals who want to spend time volunteering on-site 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 89 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, 14 interns have been placed at projects throughout India ranging from cities such as Chennai and New Delhi to rural Uttar Pradesh.

Teaching and Learning at the Same Time, In Bangalore

Chethana Biliyar, a student in Texas, US, spent a few weeks in the summer of 2007 interning at Shikshana, a project in Bangalore with a mission to improve the quality of education in India. She quickly immersed herself in helping the project administrators in their mission, and in the end learnt as much as she put into the internship.

Intern feedback

The internship experience was very satisfying for me. I enjoyed everything from the family I ended up living with to the willingness of the headmaster I primarily worked with in Kanakapura to let me do what I wanted, and to give me all of the information I needed to know about public education in that area. This past summer gave me the first opportunity



I've ever had to do any kind of comparison of different social classes/parts of India (I usually visit India to see family members). Actually, right now I'm going to do an independent study on language and migration in India, which partly involves figuring out some of the stuff I noticed over the past few months:

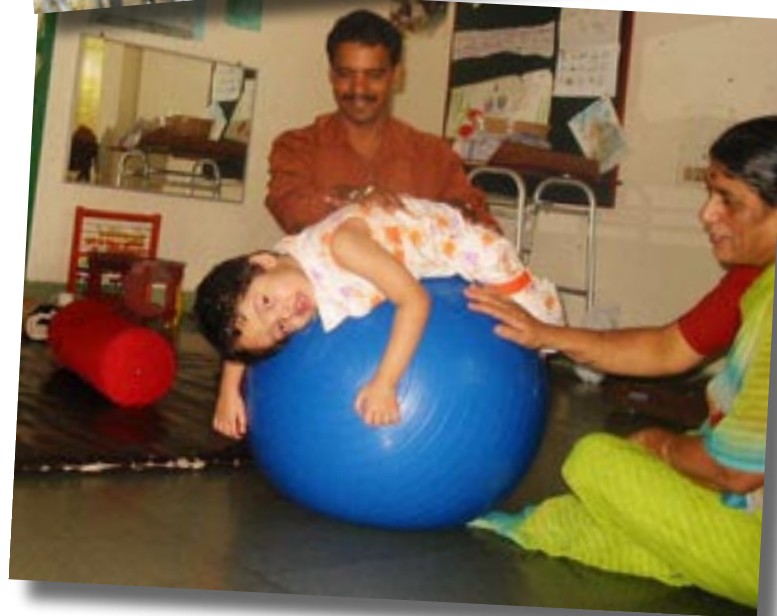
Immersing Oneself Into India, from Chennai to Leh

Kato Walmsley, a native of England made an amazing road journey from UK to India to intern first at a rural location for Project Banyan near Chennai in southern India. She promptly immersed herself into helping the mentally handicapped children at the project. She then moved on to Leh in the northernmost state of India, Jammu and Kashmir, getting used to the altitude while teaching children at the same time.

Intern feedback

Banyan - I have made some friends today, and learnt a new dance for a street theatre performance we will do on Saturday in a nearby village, this is part of The Banyan's attempt to educate Indian society about MH issues. I am giving them more ideas too. India's MH care is similar to the UK 59 years ago. Learning Tamil from scratch has been a wonderful and unique experience for me. Everyone is so pleased with how much I have learnt and encourage me heartfully and patiently. I can understand what the women say to me often now, but then as well as having more command of the language I have developed relationships with them too.

Leh: I am in a wonderful place, the kids here are beautiful x1000! I am hoping that I can become a more long term help to them- maybe by setting up a charity to send students of relevant fields from my country here to help the kids. They are fab but have NOTHING!!





Asha in the News

*Priya Veerasubramanian, Asha Canada &
Srikanth Voorakaranam, Asha Dallas*

Asha Tops Charity Navigator Ratings of 10 Charities worth watching

Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator with a database of over 3,000 organizations, released its latest report on the top charities in the United States.

Asha again made it to the Lists of 10 Slam Dunk Charities and 10 Charities Worth Watching. We received a 4-star rating for both organizational efficiency and organizational capacity. It also recognizes Asha's commitment to fiscal responsibility and to protecting the personal information of donors through a donor privacy policy. 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.

Asha receives Dr. Zakir Hussain Award

Asha has been selected to receive the Dr. Zakir Husain award from the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations this year. The Federation has instituted the award to recognize the services towards the upliftment of the poor and oppressed members of the society in India.

Natpurwa's Chandralekha ji's work showcased in IBN's Women's day special

Chandralekha ji plays an important role in resolving problems of women such as domestic disputes as part of her work in Natpurwa. If a woman is being harassed, she takes the matter to the police. On 31st August, in Natpurwa she and the other workers organized/led a rally of all the women to the Zilla main office to protest against the brokers who induce and trick the women into prostitution. As a result of the pressure, the police raided the brokers who were organizing the prostitution in Sandila and also in the village of Natpurwa. The police also launched searches for the brokers who send the girls to Mumbai and Dubai on forged passports.

Asha Urbana- Champaign Wins 2007 Champaign -Urbana International Humanitarian Award

The Urbana Champaign chapter of Asha for Education was the recipient of the 2007 Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian award in the area of Humanitarian Relief. This award specifically honors significant contributions to international understanding, cooperation, friendship and development.



The award recognizes the richness of Champaign County's international contributions, concerns and commitments in agriculture, hospitality, humanitarian relief, human rights, research/education, trade and business. One of its goals is to educate the County about the connections between the local and global community.

The award was formally presented to Asha-Urbana Champaign on 18th October, 2007 in the Dinner Ceremony scheduled at The Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 s. Neil Street, Champaign. Please visit <http://ci.champaign.il.us/departments/2007/10/25/c-u-humanitarian-awards/> for more information about the award. Asha Urbana Champaign was formed in 1991 and currently supports 7 projects that work for the underprivileged children in India. This is indeed a great accomplishment and prestige for a 100% volunteer-driven organization like Asha for Education. All the members of Asha Urbana Champaign and definitely the volunteers of Asha for Education would like to share the credibility of the award with all our donors and volunteers because their constant help and support is the basis of our organization's growth and existence.

Asha-Canada – An Eventful Year

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and contribution from generous donors, we are now in our 4th year of existence in Canada working towards our mission to support the education of under-privileged children in India. Here's a look back at the eventful year we've had in 2007...

In 2007 Asha-Canada continued its financial support for a third consecutive year to Project Sangamam (Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu, India), an initiative started in 2004 by Asha-Chennai to address the deficiencies of government-run primary schools in the villages of this under-resourced region. Asha funding is being invested towards improving the inadequate infrastructure of basic facilities (learning materials, uniforms, building repairs etc.) and also towards hiring of additional qualified teachers to improve the level of education being received by the children from low-income families who attend these schools. We have also continued our commitment to help the folks at People's Action for Transformation (PAT) in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India, in their efforts to get the very young slum children off the streets and into the caring, learning-based environment of PAT-run

day-care centers where they are given primary education by a dedicated staff, meals, toys and games to play with, and where their overall health is monitored.

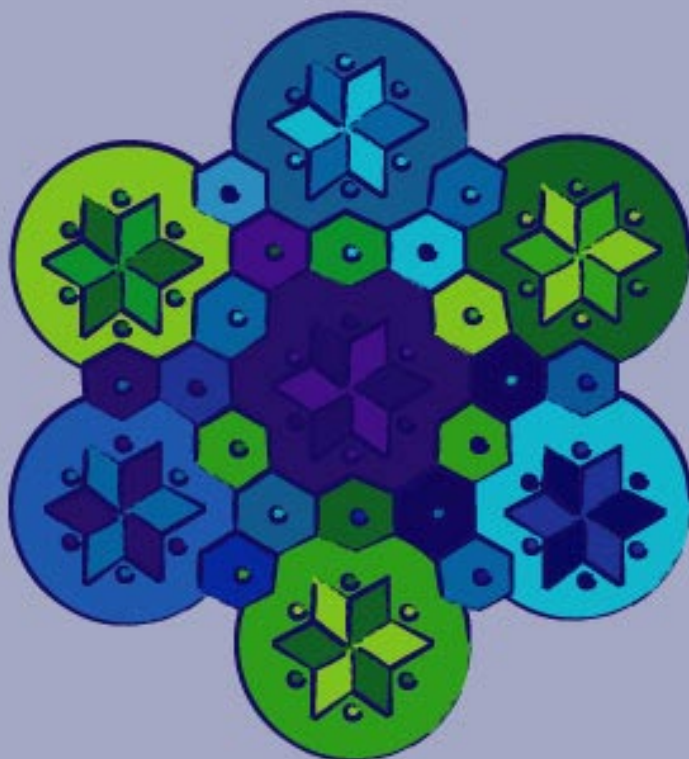
This year, Project WHY (New Delhi, India) joined the Asha family as we started our support for their community-based early education and after-school support program for very low-income children of urban slums. After 8 years of hard work, Project WHY today reaches out to approximately 500 children of all ages, including children with mental and physical challenges in relatively poorer neighborhoods of New Delhi. Asha-Canada hopes to accompany Project WHY on its mission for years to come with continued support from our donors and volunteers. Asha-Canada was given Charitable Status by the Canada Revenue Agency, so that all donations made to Asha-Canada are now fully tax-exempt. We also set up a convenient online donation portal, with Canadahelps.org, making it easier than ever for Canadians to donate to Asha-Canada and receive an automatic tax-receipt. We are happy to report that many Canadians have already taken advantage of this new donation portal to contribute to our mission. A huge thanks to all of our donors! Asha-Canada volunteers ratified a formal administrative structure; one based on Asha core values of volunteerism, non-hierarchy, participatory democracy and transparency, and consequently elected a new coordination team to manage our operations and growth. Chapters, volunteers and supporters of Asha-Canada now span the greater regions of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Windsor, Waterloo, Hamilton, Kingston and Montreal.

This year, as in previous years, we organized several awareness-events and fundraisers through which we raised money to support our projects and also promoted Asha's presence in Canada. The Vancouver chapter of Asha-Canada organized a successful "Holi Dance and Dinner" event in March 2007. Asha-Canada was the featured charity at the launch-event of Festival Acces Asie (Montreal Asian Heritage Festival) in April 2007. The Toronto volunteers set-up an informational booth at Desifest in May 2007. Montreal photographer, Stephane Lagrange (now in Halifax), held an exhibition/sale of his works in May 2007 and generously donated all proceeds to Asha-Canada. The Montreal volunteers were present to assist at the event. Asha-Canada volunteers were interviewed on CBC Radio and CHTV (Global Network). For the first time, Canadians participated in the Asha wide Work-An-Hour (WAH) campaign.



Asha for Education Financials 2007

*Written by
Consolidated effort of the Asha Treasury Team of 2007*



Account Summary

All amount in Dollars.

Chapter	Opening Balance	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Closing Balance
Ann-Arbor	3,313.00	10,915.81	101.81	14,127.00
Arizona	46,870.11	36,327.45	36,546.13	46,651.43
Athens	5,685.50	8,866.76	12,233.10	2,319.16
Atlanta	37,604.38	40,173.31	39,687.85	38,089.84
Austin	84,217.55	107,821.28	91,654.01	100,384.82
Bangalore	7,553.24	71,127.00	72,388.44	6,291.80
Berkeley	70,763.69	60,725.36	6,978.38	124,501.67
Boston/MIT	71,869.02	88,776.11	55,248.47	105,396.66
Burlington	0.00	4,446.85	0.00	4,446.85
Canada	-9.00	585.00	24.75	551.25
Central NJ	66,709.07	85,320.59	56,915.41	95,114.25
Chennai	23,410.49	36,073.00	51,084.14	8,399.35
Chicago	107,043.82	104,545.20	65,309.13	146,279.89
Cincinnati	11,143.05	7,362.72	1,258.59	17,247.18
Cleveland	32,081.73	19,144.62	32,765.82	18,460.53
Colorado	96,001.35	20,994.39	18,987.06	98,008.68
Cornell	33,314.61	17,725.73	19,432.04	31,608.30
Corvallis	6,570.23	3,997.50	5,000.00	5,567.73
Dallas	21,540.87	41,795.75	26,303.71	37,032.91
DC	101,598.91	76,249.23	59,795.31	118,052.83



Chapter	Opening Balance	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Closing Balance
Delaware	9,297.72	15,890.21	923.00	24,264.93
Delhi	6,106.32	3,556.00	4,106.68	5,555.64
Detroit	37,669.08	35,928.48	30,277.43	43,320.13
Eindhoven	409.34	10.00	0.30	419.04
Flint	13,773.35	-2085.00	0.45	11,687.90
Houston	19,508.60	8,167.96	11,716.44	15,960.12
Hyderabad	5,291.85	4,797.00	140.91	9,947.94
Irvine	15,264.73	8,429.01	5,385.69	18,308.05
Kanpur	1,345.31	801.00	25.53	2,120.78
Knoxville	0.00	3620.00	7.83	3,612.17
Kolkata	5,395.14	2,021.00	38.13	7,378.01
LA	45,554.60	15,652.86	18,465.84	42,741.62
Lalpur	5,418.42	3,500.00	4,960.00	3,958.42
London	0.86	668.00	29.04	639.82
Madison	26,983.00	43,749.85	4,635.34	66,097.51
Master	885,971.21	343,808.59	139,960.52	1089,819.28
MHV	142,785.18	4,724.99	10,164.50	137,345.67
Minnesota	14,915.78	9,758.28	16,634.91	8,039.16
MSU	3,167.57	5,471.26	4133.00	4,505.83
Mumbai	6,146.19	4,089.00	97.17	10,138.02
Munich	-53.80	50.00	1.50	-5.30
NRV	0.00	-41.00	338.00	-379.00
NYCNJ	402,056.70	407,292.55	190,696.78	618,652.47
Philadelphia	6,305.82	19,132.31	3,761.54	21,676.59
Portland	17,882.15	486.82	1010.50	17,358.47
Princeton	44,516.28	15,747.87	22,304.03	37,960.12
PSU	5,135.03	896.49	171.25	5,860.27
Pune	1,742.19	528.00	15.84	2,254.35
Purdue	5,179.45	3,841.23	1,753.58	7,267.10
Rajatalab	121.25	0.00	0.00	121.25
Redlands	14,843.24	13,899.83	8090.60	20,652.47
San Diego	7,673.12	11,592.15	70.98	19,194.29
San Francisco	0.00	1,160.00	34.80	1,125.20
Santa Barbara	2,687.34	5,764.57	197.08	8,254.83



Chapter	Opening Balance	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Closing Balance
Seattle	1,412,772.74	734,542.75	722,557.23	1,424,758.26
Silicon Valley	823,669.59	532,538.96	559,275.95	796,932.60
Singapore	48.50	0.00	0.00	48.50
SLC	4,005.04	4,768.70	2,504.32	6,269.42
St Louis	17,027.86	15,746.46	3,795.87	28,978.45
Stamford	48,871.84	23,954.44	32,495.48	40,330.80
Stanford	19,599.54	56,180.92	28,235.59	47,544.87
Toledo	31,721.90	12,673.88	8,052.43	36,343.35
Tsunami	149,221.10	0.00	76,897.00	72,324.10
Uflorida	5,520.42	26,284.46	12,035.41	19,769.47
UC	30,098.28	39,193.08	23,492.10	45,799.26
WAH	48,997.13	145,770.68	75,556.00	119,211.81
Yale	21,169.00	18,802.22	21,751.45	18,219.77
Zurich	414.10	146.00	6.18	553.92
Total	5,193,511.68	3,446,485.53	2,698,537.35	5,941,469.86





Project Disbursements

Arizona	
Matrichaya Literacy Project (BLESS)	\$5,400.00
Sri Sri Bijoy Krishna Ashram Relief Society(Vidyapath)	\$3,000.00
Jeeva Jyothi	\$6,201.38
Asha Samajik Vidyalaya	\$6077.00
Children's Lovecastless Trust (CLT)	\$7200.00
Prabartak Seva Niketan	\$3,375.00
Olcott Memorial High School – Project Bridge	\$5,006.00
Total	\$36,259.38
Athens	
Sandhya Sanwardhan Sanastha	\$10,000.00
Book Bank at Narendrapur	\$2,000.00
Total	\$12,000.00
Atlanta	
Door Step School	\$3,376.00
Anusandhan Trust (Sahyog)	\$4,000.00
Trinita Society for Social and Health Research	\$2,660.00
Prayas	\$5,500.00
Garam Mangal	\$14,000.00



Bhagavatula Charitable Trust	\$5,600.00
Rehabilitation Center	\$1,200.00
Nishtha	\$2,500.00
Total	\$38,836.00
Austin	
Shristi Special Academy	\$3,600.00
Gramin Sikshan Kendra	\$19,270.00
Prasanna Trust	\$5,150.00
Prajnalaya	\$2,026.00
Bharathi Trust	\$34,618.00
Gnanodaya	\$10,000.00
Asha Sikshan Sansthan	\$3,700.00
Nandlal Fellowship	\$3,600.00
BJSA	\$2,675.00
Asha Deepa School for Blind, Bidar	\$4,350.00
Siddamma fellowship	\$1,230.00
Total	\$90,219.00
Bangalore	
Kalpavriksh	\$632.00
The Timbaktu Collective	\$1,884.00
Parikrma Foundation	\$63,000.00
Chandranagar/Kumaraswamy govt. schools	\$6,600.00
Total	\$72,116.00
Berkeley	
Arpan Society	\$1,690.00
Aseema	\$5,000.00
Total	\$6,690.00



Chennai	
Tsunami Relief Back School	\$1048.50
Asha Scholarships- Asha Chennai	\$19,850.36
Sangamam Place Palayam	\$1,000.00
Sangamam Tiruvarur	\$1,500.00
First Step	\$4,665.00
Project Dream	\$2,000.00
Project Health Care	\$242.50
Sangamam	\$14,665.91
Right Start	\$1,001.00
TEA- Team for Education and Action	\$3,999.73
Vidiyal	\$291.00
Total	\$50,264.00
Chicago	
Enabling Technologies	\$5,735.00
NAVJYOTI	\$13,010.00
Aralu Belaku	\$12,348.00
Aralu Pre-primary center	\$3,155.00
Gramya	\$16,640.00
Manish fellowship	\$4,690.00
Jyotirgamaya Study Center	\$2,500.00
Asmita	\$3,659.00
Total	\$61,737.00
Cincinnati	
Rehabilitation Center for Blind Women (Trichy)	\$1,200.00
Total	\$1,200.00
Cleveland	
Uma's Fellowship	\$667.00
Padmashree Society (104830040)	\$1,000.00



Indian Society for Special Education and Rehabilitation	\$3,282.00
Kancheepuram Tsunami R&R Animators Support	\$2,677.00
SRISHTI	\$16,908.00
Bharati Trust	\$2,000.00
PRAYAS	\$5,081.30
Total	\$31,615.30
CNJ	
Mathru Educational Trust for Blind	\$722.00
Cheshire Homes	\$5,000.00
Ashraya	\$10,000.00
Gram Vikas Trust	\$5,500.00
Srividyaashram	\$10,500.00
Mathru	\$7,500.00
SAATHI	\$2,500.00
Ushagram Trust	\$4,000.00
Total	\$45,722.00
Colorado	
Jeevan Daan Samiti	\$3,980.00
Sebama Foundation – Rosa Ctr for Vocational Training	\$7,500.00
Samajik Navnirman Sanstha	\$3,400.00
Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project	\$800.00
Padmashree Society	\$1,800.00
Fellowship : Harsha	\$1,200.00
Total	\$18,680.00
Cornell	
Baikanthapur Tarun Sangha(BTS)	\$7,500.00
ISW – Institute Of Social Work Primary Education Project	\$3,000.00
Kaingkarya Social Welfare Organization	\$3,814.00
Jeevan Gnanodaya	\$2,000.00
Total	\$16,314.00



Corvallis	
Bhaishan, UP Project	\$5,000.00
Total	\$5,000.00
Dallas	
Odanadi	\$5,000.00
To Reach You	\$11,000.00
Sankalp	\$6,330.00
Arya Samaj (Prerna Sishi Vidyalaya)	\$3,500.00
Total	\$25,830.00
DC	
Guria	\$7,272.00
Asha Samajik Vidyalaya	\$8,868.56
Sahyog	\$5,860.00
Nalamdana	\$7,000.00
Sanctuary Schools	\$5,000.00
BTS	\$7,000.00
Mahila Action	\$9,517.00
Vidyasagar	\$5,000.00
Mahesh Pandey Fellowship	\$3,600.00
Total	\$59,117.56
Delaware	
MICDA	\$923.00
Total	\$923.00
Delhi	
Delhi Govt. School Education	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00

**Detroit**

Shanti Sadhana	\$7,051.00
Kuvempu	\$10,500.00
Purna Pragna Trust	\$5,654.00
BISWA	\$6,655.00
Total	\$29,860.00

Houston

SACSAS Academy, Manipur	\$6,197.00
Project Build Pasumai Trust, Chennai	\$5,000.00
Total	\$11,197.00

Irvine

Ananda Bharathi, No II/21022/94(0814-01)/2005-FCRA-IV	\$1,250.00
Astha & 231650955	\$2,000.00
Shanti Sadhana & 20780023	\$2,000.00
Total	\$5,250.00

LA

Street To School	\$3,300.00
Mithram	\$3,000.00
Vanashree	\$325.00
Youth Dreams	\$2,050.00
Punjab Istri Sabha	\$1,500.00
Bidge The Gap	\$1,000.00
Setupati, Madurai	\$5,000.00
Balseva, Rajasthan	\$1,200.00
Total	\$17,375.00

Lalpur

Jagriti Bal Vikash Samiti	\$4,915.00
Total	\$4,915.00



Madison

Gyanodaya Project	\$2,100.00
Udyan Care	\$2,500.00
Total	\$4,600.00

Asha Wide

Aasara	\$1,450.00
Manipur Women Empowerment Project	\$1,555.00
Education And Self Reliance For Farmers	\$1,302.00
Project Trigger	\$1,850.00
Total	\$6,157.00

MHV

Vivekananda Educational Society For Children	\$5,500.00
Christian Hospital, Bissamcuttack/MRSK	\$4,660.00
Total	\$10,160.00

Minnesota

Kaorakhali Jana Sevashram School	\$16,540.00
Total	\$16,540.00

Boston/MIT

SEED – Narpanigal	\$3,325.00
TEA – Trust	\$1,000.00
Sahanivasa	\$20,730.00
SPRAT	\$1,500.00
Deenabandhu Trust	\$2,200.00
SEED	\$10,150.00
Navsarjan Trust	\$4,370.00
Natpurwa	\$6,921.00
SVYM	\$1,500.00
Kamalakar Trust	\$2,000.00
Total	\$53,696.00



MSU	
ISDGEI	\$4,000.00
Total	\$4,000.00
NYCNJ	
Seva Chakkara Samajam	\$22,000.00
Timbaktu Collective	\$15,000.00
NIPWD (Namgyal Institute for People With Disability)	\$3,600.00
Mukti	\$21,662.00
Shilpa Society for Mentally Handicapped	\$17,000.00
Sahyog- Ekta	\$9,000.00
Child Aid Foundation	\$10,000.00
Sarvodaya Parivar Trust	\$2075.00
HUT AIDS Orphans Education Project	\$14,000.00
Door Step School	\$22,200.00
Sankurathri Foundation	\$9,000.00
Sharada Kalyan Bhandar	\$23,000.00
Siddamma	\$4,642.00
AHEAD	\$3,850.00
Dhamma Dhippa School	\$9,500.00
Total	\$186,529.00
Philadelphia	
ASV Gonwara	\$1,885.00
Aasra Sewa Sansthan	\$1,819.00
Total	\$3,704.00
Portland	
Project Build	\$1,000.00
Total	\$1,000.00
Princeton	
Khajurdaha Nabankur United Club	\$8,050.00



Vasundara's Science on Wheels	\$5,000.00
Anu and Krishna Fellowship	\$4,400.00
Prayas Workshop	\$600.00
B. Sireesha Fellowship	\$4,000.00
Total	\$22,050.00
Purdue	
Aikyawardhak	\$1,700.00
Total	\$1,700.00
Redlands	
Adarsh Ilm Vidyalaya	\$4,950.00
Shradha	\$3,140.00
Total	\$8,090.00
Seattle	
Adruta Children's Home	\$47,200.00
ASHA[Delhi 10% School reservation clause]	\$7,925.00
Astha	\$6,776.00
Avehi Abacus	\$194,100.00
Balavihar	\$4,000.00
Betsy Elizabeth Trust	\$6,735.00
Bhoomi Heena Sewa Samithi	\$59,414.00
Champa Mahila Society	\$79,983.00
Each One Teach One	\$5,400.00
EQUIP Krishnagiri	\$25,641.00
Gandhi Kasturibhai Village Development Society	\$11,930.00
Jeevan Gnanodaya	\$7,431.00
Learning Network	\$426.85
MICDA	\$27,020.00
Muskaan	\$21,395.00
National Association For The Blind, Karnataka Branch	\$10,800.00
Nitya Seva Society	\$10,435.00



Puvidham	\$7,997.00
Ravi Aluganti	\$4,600.00
Rural Development Trust	\$30,600.00
Senjiagram School	\$3,500.00
Shastri School	\$10,912.00
Sikshana	\$29,255.00
Spastics Society	\$3,000.00
Sumavanam	\$3,500.00
Support	\$25,120.00
Tomorrow's Foundation	\$5,722.00
Uthnau	\$17,804.00
V- Excel Educational Trust	\$18,900.00
Vigyan Ashram	\$15,000.00
Vigyan Vijay Foundation	\$4,000.00
Vikasana	\$6,785.00
WHY	\$11,985.00
Total	\$719,292.70

Salt Lake City

Movement For Oppressed Peoples Total Health, Education and Reformation	\$2,500.00
Total	\$2,500.00

Stamford

Tribal Empowerment	\$13,678.00
Assam Centre for Rural Development	\$7,000.00
Dhamma Dipa School	\$9,500.00
Namgyal Institute For People with Disabilities	\$1,500.00
Total	\$31,678.00

Stanford

HEALDS	\$5,900.00
ABHAS	\$6,284.00



PAT Project in Trichy	\$3,356.00
Institute Of Rural Development and Management & Studies	\$2,550.00
Mandra Lions Club	\$1,507.00
Mahila Vikas	\$4,400.00
Sarvodaya Parivar Trust	\$4,000.00
Total	\$27,997.00
St. Louis	
Bharatiyar Educational Society	\$3,600.00
Total	\$3,600.00
Silicon Valley	
ABHAS	\$4,524.00
Aheli Chowdhury Fellowship	\$2,250.00
Asha Darshan	\$46,500.00
ASV Deoria and Kushinagar	\$4,634.00
Bal Mahila Kalyan Jyotirgamaya	\$3,040.00
CDDP	\$8,940.00
Deenabandhu Trust	\$3,457.00
EQUIP	\$35,000.00
Ganguria Sri Sri Saradatirtham	\$6,249.00
Guria	\$22,500.00
Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti	\$10,290.00
Kondh	\$4,460.00
Kuvempu	\$20,494.00
Mandra Lions Club	\$5,000.00
MSS	\$2,250.00
Naandi Foundation	\$11,125.00
Natpurwa	\$3,700.00
Parner Pre School	\$3,950.00
Pranabananda Boys Hostel	\$11,928.00
Prerana	\$15,760.00
Project Igatpuri	\$4,100.00



Reward Trust	\$70,677.00
Right Start	\$7,250.00
Ruchika Social Service Organization	\$7,710.00
Samata	\$12,609.00
Samrakshan Charitable Trust	\$5,685.00
Sandnya Sanwardhan Sanstha	\$25,000.00
Sarvodaya Parivar Trust	\$25,000.00
Satsang Vidyalaya	\$12,294.00
Saurabh Sharma Fellowship	\$2,250.00
Savidya Upasamiti	\$8,160.00
SES Hyderabad	\$14,170.00
Seva Mandir	\$9,860.00
Sevalaya	\$5,000.00
Shikshana Vahini, Bijapur	\$31,000.00
Sikshana Vahini, Mysore	\$6,560.00
Sowbhagya	\$15,985.00
SVYM VIdyakiran	\$12,056.00
Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement	\$7,941.00
Tomorrow's Foundation	\$8,212.00
TRUWDES	\$8,000.00
Vanavasi Ashram Trust	\$17,500.00
Varun	\$10,240.00
Total	\$553,310.00

Toledo

Project Confidence (Teacher Salary)	\$5,000.00
Satya Priya Fellowship	\$2,000.00
Chittalpuddi Project	\$300.00
Kumbakonam Site Visit	\$75.00
Asha marie Curie Scholarship (Kolkata Street Kids)	\$300.00
Farmer Sucide Prevention	\$125.00
Dhanalakshmi Scholarship	\$200.00
Total	\$8,000.00



Tsunami Funds

Back To School	\$40,270.00
Sahanivasa	\$16,857.00
Cuddalore District	\$19,770.00
Total	\$76,897.00

Urbana Champaign

KJSA	\$1,250.00
JG	\$7,680.00
Prayas	\$4,828.00
BGUS	\$7,300.00
RV	\$2,200.00
Total	\$23,258.00

Uflorida

ASV Deoria and Kushinagar	\$1,500.00
FORWARD	\$5,000.00
NEEHAR	\$4,500.00
Total	\$11,000.00

WAH

NICE (Asha India)	\$5,846.00
Jeevika Trust	\$7,278.00
Mahila Swarojgar Samiti	\$9,048.00
Sahyog, Maharashtra (Anusandhan Trust)	\$3,378.00
Project Siragu (Suyam)	\$16,860.00
Social Welfare Association (towards SACSAS)	\$5,400.00
Sandnya Sanwardhan Sanstha	\$9,924.00
Women And Youth Social Service Society	\$3,500.00
FORWORD	\$5,500.00
Tribal Empowerment Project	\$3,222.00
Gramya	\$5,600.00
Total	\$75,556.00



Yale	
Scholarships for tsunami affected school children	\$770.00
Mukti	\$4,070.00
Shamayita Convent School	\$5,500.00
Orissa School Project	\$1,200.00
Anandan	\$10,000.00
Total	\$21,540.00
Sub Total	
	\$2,517,974.94





Disbursement Ratios

All amount in Dollars.

Chapter Name	Total Revenue	Grant Expenses	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Disbursed Revenue	Disbursed Opening	Disbursed Closing
Ann-Arbor	10,915.81	0.00	3,313.00	14,127.00	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Arizona	36,327.45	36,259.38	46,870.11	46,651.43	99.81%	77.36%	78%
Athens	8,866.76	12,000.00	5,685.50	2,319.16	135.34%	211.06%	517%
Atlanta	40,173.31	38,836.00	37,604.00	38,089.84	96.67%	103.28%	102%
Austin	107,821.28	90,219.00	84,217.55	100,384.82	83.67%	107.13%	90%
Bangalore	71,127.00	72,116.00	7,553.24	6,291.80	101.39%	954.77%	1146%
Berkeley	60,725.36	6,690.00	70,763.69	124,501.67	11.02%	9.45%	5%
Boston/MIT	88,776.11	53,696.00	71,869.02	105,396.66	60.48%	74.71%	51%
Burlington	4,446.85	0.00	0.00	4,446.85	0.00%		0%
Canada	585.00	0.00	-9.00	551.25	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Central NJ	85,320.59	45,722.00	66,709.07	95,114.25	53.59%	68.54%	48%
Chennai	36,073.00	50,264.00	23,410.49	8,399.35	139.34%	214.71%	598%
Chicago	104,545.20	61,737.00	107,043.82	146,279.89	59.05%	57.67%	42%
Cincinnati	7,362.72	1,200.00	11,143.05	17,247.18	16.30%	10.77%	7%
Cleveland	19,144.62	31,615.30	32,081.73	18,460.53	165.14%	98.55%	171%
Colorado	20,994.39	18,680.00	96,001.35	98,008.68	88.98%	19.46%	19%
Cornell	17,725.73	16,314.00	33,314.61	31,608.30	92.04%	48.97%	52%



Chapter Name	Total Revenue	Grant Expenses	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Disbursed Revenue	Disbursed Opening	Disbursed Closing
Corvallis	3,997.50	5,000.00	6,570.23	5,567.23	125.08%	76.10%	90%
Dallas	41,795.75	25,830.00	21,540.87	37,032.91	61.80%	119.91%	70%
DC	76,249.23	59,117.56	101,598.91	118,052.83	77.53%	58.19%	50%
Delaware	15,890.21	923.00	9,297.72	24,264.93	5.81%	9.93%	4%
Delhi	3,556.00	4,000.00	6,106.32	5,555.64	112.49%	65.51%	72%
Detroit	35,928.48	29,860.00	37,669.08	43,320.13	83.11%	79.27%	69%
Eindhoven	10.00	0.00	409.34	419.04	0.00%	0%	0%
Flint	-2,085.00	0.00	13,773.35	11,687.90	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Houston	8,167.96	11,197.00	19,508.60	15,960.12	137.08%	57.40%	70%
Hyderabad	4,797.00	0.00	5,291.85	9,947.94	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Irvine	8,429.01	5,250.00	15,264.73	18,308.05	62.28%	34.39%	29%
Kanpur	801.00	0.00	1,345.31	2,120.78	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Knoxville	3,620.00	0.00	0.00	3,612.17	0.00%		0%
Kolkata	2,021.00	0.00	5,395.14	7,378.01	0.00%	0.00%	0%
LA	15,652.86	17,375.00	45,554.60	42,741.62	111.00%	38.14%	41%
Lalpur	3,500.00	4,915.00	5,418.42	3,958.42	140.43%	90.71%	124%
London	668.00	0.00	0.86	639.82	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Madison	43,749.85	4,600.00	26,983.00	66,097.51	10.51%	17.05%	7%
Master	343,808.59	6,157.00	885,971.21	1,089,819.28	1.79%	0.69%	1%
MHV	4,724.99	10,160.00	142,785.18	137,345.67	215.03%	7.12%	7%
Minnesota	9,758.29	16,540.00	14,915.78	8,039.16	169.50%	110.89%	206%
MSU	5,471.26	4,000.00	3,167.57	4,505.83	73.11%	126.28%	89%
Mumbai	4,089.00	0.00	6,146.19	10,138.02	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Munich	50.00	0.00	-53.80	-5.30	0.00%	0.00%	0%
NRV	-41.00	0.00	0.00	-379.00	0.00%		0%
NYCNJ	407,292.55	186,529.00	402,056.70	618,652.47	45.80%	46.39%	30%
Philadelphia	19,132.31	3,704.00	6,305.82	21,676.59	19.36%	58.74%	17%
Portland	486.82	1,000.00	17,882.15	17,358.47	205.41%	5.59%	6%
Princeton	15,747.87	22,050.00	44,516.28	37,960.12	140.02%	49.53%	58%
PSU	896.49	0.00	5,135.03	5,860.27	0.00%	0.00%	0%



Chapter Name	Total Revenue	Grant Expenses	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Disbursed Revenue	Disbursed Opening	Disbursed Closing
Pune	528.00	0.00	1,742.19	2,254.35	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Purdue	3,841.23	1,700.00	5,179.45	7,267.10	44.26%	32.82%	23%
Rajatalab	0.00	0.00	121.25	121.25		0.00%	0%
Redlands	13,899.83	8,090.00	14,843.24	20,652.47	58.20%	54.50%	39%
San Diego	11,592.15	0.00	7,673.12	19,194.29	0.00%	0.00%	0%
San Francisco	1,160.00	0.00	0.00	1,125.20	0.00%		0%
Santa Barbara	5,764.57	0.00	2,687.34	8,254.83	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Seattle	734,542.75	719,292.70	1,412,772.74	1,424,758.26	97.92%	50.91%	50%
Silicon Valley	532,538.96	553,310.00	823,669.59	796,932.60	103.90%	67.18%	69%
Singapore	0.00	0.00	48.50	48.50		0.00%	0%
SLC	4,768.70	2,500.00	4,005.04	6,269.42	52.43%	62.42%	40%
St. Louis	15,746.46	3,600.00	17,027.86	28,978.45	22.86%	21.14%	12%
Stamford	23,954.44	31,678.00	48,871.84	40,330.80	132.24%	64.82%	79%
Stanford	56,180.92	27,997.00	19,599.54	47,544.87	49.83%	142.85%	59%
Toledo	12,673.88	8,000.00	31,721.90	36,343.35	63.12%	25.22%	22%
Tsunami	0.00	76,897.00	149,221.10	72,324.00		51.53%	106%
Uflorida	26,284.46	11,000.00	5,520.42	19,769.47	41.85%	199.26%	56%
UC	39,193.08	23,258.00	30,098.28	45,799.26	59.34%	77.27%	51%
WAH	145,770.68	75,556.00	48,997.13	119,211.81	51.83%	154.20%	63%
Yale	18,802.22	21,540.00	21,169.00	18,219.77	114.56%	101.75%	118%
Zurich	146.00	0.00	414.00	553.92	0.00%	0.00%	0%
Total	3,446,485.53	2,517,974.94	5,193,511.68	5,941,469.86	73.06%	48.48%	42%



Contact Information

Coordinator

Anand Raghavan
president@ashanet.org
Phone: 415.710.3083

Address

Asha for Education
PO Box 322
New York NY 10040-0322
USA
Web: <http://www.ashanet.org>

Copyright Statement

All Annual Report design, text, graphics and the selection and arrangement thereof © 1992-2007, Asha for Education, All Rights Reserved. Permission is granted to distribute electronic and print copies of the Asha for Education Annual Report 2007 for personal and private use as an information resource. Any other use of materials in this publication, including but not limited to reproduction for purposes other than those noted above, modification, republication, re-transmission or public showing, without the prior written permission of Asha for Education, is strictly prohibited.

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



Asha for Education
P.O.Box 322 New York, NY 10040-0322
E-mail - president@ashanet.org
Phone - 1.800.527.4651