

## **Annual report of Udaan Welfare Foundation -Year 2011 -2012**

Year 2011-2012 has been a landmark year in the history of Udaan Welfare Foundation, as the combined hard work and dedication of our team has borne rich. We feel extremely proud, and now we're even more motivated to do better in the coming years.

As many of you are aware, we are Capgemini India Ltd's one of the official NGO partner, wherein the company extends its uncompromised support to us through their CSR arm - The WeKare Society. We are greatly privileged to be associated with them, as through their recommendations and support, we were selected out of 5 shortlisted NGO's to set up a new Computer Education Centre supported by SNS REAAL Bank, Netherlands. Through this successful alliance, Udaan Welfare Foundation successfully integrated and commissioned a fully functional state of the art Computer Centre at Ma Niketan in Thane. The confidence and support displayed by official project partners - M/s SNS REAAL- Netherlands, WeKare Society - Capgemini India Ltd and Reforms Image Group, has helped Udaan Welfare Foundation to successfully manage this critical project in totality, and provide the much needed edu-technological support to over 330 underprivileged girls. The Udaan team wholly supervises this project with employment of teachers; administrators etc. and also ensures complete maintenance of the spaces. We're extremely grateful to our project partners for all their support and encouragement, and we also thank the Nasscom Foundation for helping us get original Microsoft Office Products worth 1 million rupees free of cost through their CSR arm Bigtech. At the same time, we also extend our heartfelt gratitude towards IBM and Citrus Technologies for giving us their products at subsidised rates.

On a similar note, we are also proud to be officially registered as official NGO partners with Serco Intelenet Global, India, a multinational BPO. Our projects at Anugraha Vidya Mandir, Anugraha Children's Home Ambarnath and Oswal Female Education Society, Ajmer have received constant support from them, and for this we thank the entire Intelenet team for all their generousities and active support.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

In the field of environmental welfare, our two main projects, namely - The Waste Water Recycling project at Ma Niketan Thane, and The Rain Water Harvesting at Mukta Jivan, Vehloli, were nominated for National Awards by Green Globe Foundation, New Delhi.

At the same time, an Eco tour was organised for the children from Mukta Jivan, Vehloli - a foundation that works for the welfare of children suffering from AIDS. The Eco Tour saw the participation from over 30 children in a fun filled day long activity. This tour was sponsored by Serco Intelenet Global and was also logistically supported by Paryavaran Manch, Thane. Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar successfully lead the Udaan team for this project.

Udaan Welfare Foundation also organised a tree plantation drive with the active support and participation from over 60 children of Lok Puram Public School, Thane. About 225 saplings were planted at Mukta Jivan, Vehloli and majority of the plants have found their roots there. Inputs from the Udaan Team suggest that the children were so enthusiastic during the project that they wished to stay longer and do more. Again, Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar organised the event with several Udaan members participating.

### **CHILDREN**

For our projects related to the welfare of children and the youth in general, we are thankful to FABINDIA for supporting us by donating a large quantity of new clothes to us through the efforts of Mr T S Subramanian, in the year 2010-11, which were distributed to the following institutions:

1. Dharam Bharathi Mission, Nagpur
2. Dharam Bharathi Mission, Mumbai,
3. Dharam Bharathi Mission, Lucknow
4. Nasurgi Charitable Trust, Chunabhatti, Mumbai
5. Vidya Adhaar Pratishthan, Virar
6. ACY Day Care Centre for the underprivileged
7. MHM Orphanage, Chembur
8. Sindhi Society, Chembur
9. After Care Home, Chembur
10. Ma Niketan – A Children’s Home, Thane
11. Mukta Jivan - AIDS Children and Senior Citizens
12. Anugraha Children's Home, Ambernath
13. Anugraha Vidya Mandir, Ambernath

We confirm that all the children who were at the receiving end of this kindness, showed great happiness and joy, as many of them never imagined that they could ever get an opportunity to wear such nice branded expensive clothes. Prof. R S S Mani helped the Udaan team in organising the selection of beneficiaries and distribution, and we deeply appreciate his efforts.

On a similar note, Friendship day was celebrated with fun filled activities between the 60 children from Lok Puram Public School, Thane and the 60+ children at Mukta Jivan, Vehloli. There were Antakshari Competition along with other games played together, and saw the Udaan team successfully building new friendships between the innocent minds.

Another commendable project commissioned by the Udaan team is the Library book reading Project – which saw 50 Children from Ma Niketan making the best of the opportunity to read exclusive books, through the much needed intervention from some of our Udaan members under the leadership of Mrs Varinder Kaur. Mrs Suseela Joish, Mrs Sharmistha Sanyal and Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar. The entire team contributed their time and effort to implement this project from 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

The Udaan Edufest - Our annual fest - was again a grand success in the year 2011, with active participation from over 250 children - a personal best in 5 years. The innovative aspect to the 2011 event was the successful pilot run of our interactive science project. This brought in a lot of enthusiasm among the children and encouraged them to take on activities like creating toys from trash, and motivated them to understand the basics of Science, and much more. Dr Avinash Despande, a veteran in his field of work, took the children out for an exciting trekking expedition to Yeoor Hills, where he then familiarised the kids with the art and science of Yoga & meditation through demonstrations. Thereafter, he also ran through his slide show – a Journey to the Himalayas, which educated the children about many unknown facts about the Himalayas.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS**

In our effort to work towards the welfare of Senior Citizens, the Udaan team joined hands with the children from Lok Puram Public School, Thane to plan a surprise visit to the Senior Citizens Home at Mukta Jivan, Vehloli. The kids were extremely thrilled to meet a centenarian woman at the home, who was doing her normal daily chores and happily interacting with all of them. At the same time, the children were also deeply moved with the interactions they had with the several senior citizens, but were happy to see the excellent care being provided to the elderly folk by the Sisters of the Home.

Narrowing the focus to the wellbeing of senior citizens within residential societies, a Pranic Healing seminar was conducted for the Senior Citizens of Hiranandani Estate, Thane by the Udaan team,

which saw the active participation of over 80 members. Some of the participants experienced effective healing instantly. Organised jointly with the World Pranic Healing Foundation under the leadership of Mr Hariharan, this event was well appreciated.

On a slight parallel, Preventing Falls in the Elderly - A talk delivered by Dr. Anuja Luniya, on the steps that the elderly need to take to safeguard themselves from falls, was well appreciated by the Senior Citizens of the Veteran Citizens Forum, Thane and the Senior Citizens Club of Hiranandani Estate, Thane. Over 225 Senior Citizens attended the Seminars.

## **WOMEN**

In terms of working towards the better cause of women in our society, the Cancer Awareness Program is another feather in the cap for the Udaan team. This project was an invitation from the Times group – Thane Plus and Korum Mall to organise a Cancer Awareness Program for women on International Women’s Day and International Day for Gynaecologic Cancers. The Udaan team was privileged to get the support from 10 specialist doctors of repute in the field of Oncology from different reputed Hospitals in Mumbai and Thane, to speak on various aspects of management of Gynaecologic Cancers. About 100 participants blessed the event with keen participation. In response to the initiative, one of the participants wrote –“To THE SPEAKERS – U were Excellent, U did it to the T, We will reach Zero in years to come with your Dedication and Devotion, U knew your A – Audience, B – were brief, C – Clear in thoughts and words, D – Delivery, Diction and Intonation, Power Point too, E – Expertise, Empathy and Encouragement, F – Fear gone and V R there any time, G – Goodness and God our Creator from hearts to ours – Well done, Keep it up”

Coherently, Today's Girls - Tomorrow's Future, a talk delivered by Dr. Roopali Deshpande, was organised by the Udaan team for the women villagers of Kokanipada in Thane, through the joint association with Ma Niketan, Thane. About 50 ladies participated in the event and were apprised of the importance of the girl child, their education and health. The event was well appreciated by the audience, and a visible change in the outlook of the villagers has been noticed ever since.

## **OUR SUSTAINED PROJECTS**

Talking about our on-going projects, many have been continuing smoothly for the last 5 years. The breakfast program for 60 children at Anugraha Children's Home, and the PSR Education Fund support for 70 children at Anugraha Vidya Mandir at Ambernath continue to be well sustained and supported to this day thanks to our supporters. At the same time, our Udaan Day Care Centre is working efficiently for nearly 80 children every day, and we have seen a sea of changes in the lives of these children and their families. We continue to supply medicines periodically to Ma Niketan, Anugraha Children’s Home and Mukta Jivan.

We have enrolled 5 children from Anugraha Children’s Home in Smt. P M Doshi College, Ghatkopar for higher studies with their College fees waived as well as are being provided with books and mid-day meals, since 5 years. This was solely possible through the efforts of Mrs Poonam Singh, our member and the Vice Principal of the college.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Some of our other project undertakings include initiatives like the Diabetes Detection Camp for the Youth – where we were invited to conduct a Diabetes Awareness program for the Youth by the students of Somaiya Medical College, Mumbai during their fest – “AAKARSHAN” – Rock for a Cause on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2011. About 200 youth actively participated in the event and through their promising co-operation we were able to identify a few diabetics. On detection, appropriate advice was provided to those who were detected to be positive of diabetes. Dr Reddy’s Lab sponsored the

event along with the distribution of booklets delivering further information about Diabetes especially printed for Udaan Welfare Foundation. We are grateful to them for their support.

Alongside, A Blood Donation Camp was organised by the Udaan team, which saw the active participation from the employees of the Capgemini office at Airoli. We were successful in collecting 239 units with the joint participation of Sion Hospital Blood Bank, Mumbai, and we thank Capgemini India Ltd. and Sion Hospital Blood Bank for their valued support.

On a tragic note, the boy's dormitory at Anugrah Children's Home, Ambarnath was gutted recently in an unfortunate fire accident. Understanding the gravity of the situation, the Udaan team has helped to re-construct the flooring at the dorm with support from Serco Intelenet Global with a total contribution of Rs. 25000/-. We're happy to note that the work towards getting the dorm back to normalcy has been speedy, and the boys are extremely happy about this.

#### **GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

As President of the Udaan Welfare Foundation, I would like to specially thank the following volunteers for their selfless support:-

Dr Roopali Deshpande, Ms. Anandita Kumar, Mrs Anita Das, Mr Riddhi Ray, Ms Divesha Agrawal, Ms Sharwari Kulkarni, Dr Anuja Luniya, Ms Surabhi Luniya, Ms Prachiti Dalvi (Duke University, USA), Ms Pranali Dalvi (Duke University, USA), Mr Tanveer Singh Rainu, Mr Arun Ramakrishnan, all volunteers from Capgemini India for helping us sort out the clothes received from FABINDIA, teachers from Lok Puram Public School Thane, all volunteers from Intelenet especially Mr Puneet Taneja, Mrs Darshana Sardesai, Mrs Sussana Pinto and Mr Vaibhav Masurkar.

No words are enough to thank all the donors for our different projects who have been our constant source of support and strength over the years. With new donors stepping forward, we are steadily gaining much needed strength to take our projects to newer heights.

Many interns and volunteers continue to communicate with us, and our website hits also continue to rise. All of these are extremely positive indicators, and I would like thank each and every one of our supporters for their confidence and faith that they've shown in us. Our mission of giving continues with Compassion and Humility. We look forward to more resources beyond finance – giving of time, knowledge and skill. We look forward to having more volunteers to join hands with us in giving....

#### **OUR NEW PROJECTS – The Way Forward...**

Riding high on the back of so many positives that we've been blessed with in the past years, the Udaan team has been energised to take on new initiatives for the future years to come. Some of these initiatives are taking shape right from the current moment itself, and these include the following:

1. Under the leadership of Mr Satish Agadi, The Udaan Team has built a state of the art computer centre with avant-garde facilities including Internet and interactive digital teaching media. Named as "Ma Niketan Technology Centre", the facility space has started operations from April 15<sup>th</sup> 2012, and is shaping well with an average daily attendance of 80 to 100 children from different grades. The students are thrilled to have this facility in their campus and look forward to participating daily and learning new aspects of technology and art. Apart from a formal training on the use of computers and internet (restricted access) etc., students also have opportunities to watch inspirational videos, play mind training exercise games, and learn poems, science & mathematics - the fun way.

2. Udaan is now embarking on a new project under the leadership of Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar, for the benefit of the underprivileged children. Coined – **“Udaan Vigyan Ki”** this project will make Science a hands - on learning experience and will focus on creating Toys from Trash. Based on the concept of Dr Arvind Gupta Toys, the children will create toys from trash, understand the fundamentals of Science in them and discuss various nuances of the process amongst their peers under the guidance of volunteers. Set to be launched in two schools – Shri Harkishan English Medium School at Gandhinagar, and Shri Ram Vidya Mandir at Veer Savarkar Nagar, Thane, the Udaan team hopes to successfully replicate the same process in other schools for the underprivileged in the near future.  
The “Udaan Vigyan Ki” project has also been selected by two young twin sisters from Duke University, USA as their independent project under the University’s “Duke Engage Program”. These two budding scientists came down to India for two months to help us set up this project and they have very enthusiastically prepared the blue print of the entire project. We thank them for their efforts and are grateful to the mentors at Duke University, USA for supporting them for a good cause. Udaan Welfare Foundation wishes Ms.Prachiti and Pranali Dalvi great success in their lives and hopes to have them on board for this project throughout.
3. In yet another initiative surrounding health & nutrition, we are starting a new project by committing to the supply of food grains to poor and needy Cancer patients coming for treatment at Bharat Seva Sangh, Vashi. This will be done on a monthly basis, and we plan to start this project by contributing 200 Kgs of Rice and 50 kgs of Pulses, 30 L of oil and 15 kg Sugar.
4. We received a request from the trustees of Oswal Female Education Society, Ajmer, Rajasthan, seeking funds for their 100 years old educational institution – ‘Gulab Kanwar Kanya Pathshala’. Still struggling after 100 years of existence for funds, the team from Intelenet visited the school and was appalled to see the sorry state of this almost heritage institution, where they saw that more than 350 underprivileged girls from Pre Primary to X Std. study in a small 3 storeyed rented building. Serco Intelenet Global has already contributed Rs. 50,000/- towards the salaries of the teachers to begin with, and we hope and trust that this school gets its rightful share of well-deserved recognition and support for their commitment to the society.
5. We have again received more than 3000 new clothes from FABINDIA to be distributed to the needy. This is, again, a great effort from Mr T S Subramanian in sustaining our project and we gratefully thank FABINDIA for showing confidence and trust in our work. Mr Jagdish Agrawal and team have taken great pains to sort out these clothes which are now awaiting distribution to the needy children and adults.
6. We donated more than 300 children’s books to a Dharam Bharathi Mission, Mumbai who is running a public library in Santa Cruz. This was facilitated through the efforts of Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar and procured from the Library of Lok Puram Public School, Thane.
7. On the occasion of World Literacy Day, we conducted a program for the children of Shri Harkishan English Medium School and Shri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane. Themed on the different genius and multiple intelligences, the 100 odd children of 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Std. had a gala time doing the activities and presentations. This program was done with the support of Marico Ltd. and it was a great experience for the staff of Marico including Mr Saugata Gupta, the CEO. Mr Prabodh Halde facilitated and led this highly successful program.
8. On 14<sup>th</sup> September, we conducted a Blood Donation Camp at the premises of Marico Ltd. and collected 78 units of blood after 25 rejections due to medical reasons. This was donated to the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai for the cancer patients. Mr Prabodh Halde again successfully led this project.

9. Our Udaan Edufest 2012 will be conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November. Preparations are on and we hope to make it a memorable one for the participating children with new formats focussed on the theme of different Intelligences and careers.

With this wrapping up the overview of our current and future projects, our resolve to build projects with a long lasting positive impact on the needs of the society continues to grow. We have pursued excellence and are investing in long term relationships with our partners, donors, volunteers and well wishers and we value relationships over revenue. The team continues to remain highly motivated and enthusiastic to put in their best at all time... It is a great privilege and honour to have such a committed team and Udaan is now looking forward to a future at greater heights.

**THE HEART OF GIVING – Let's give so much Love that even God will wonder, "Did I Create this person in Heaven... or is he recreating me on Earth...?"**