

Annual Report of Udaan Welfare Foundation - Year 2012-2013

Our commitment towards developing sustainable projects has been the highlight of the activities of Udaan Welfare Foundation for the year 2012-2013. Our team's passionate involvement and participation in most of the projects has brought accolades from the beneficiaries as well as partners. We feel satisfied and motivated to continue our efforts towards empowering lives.

We were privileged to get an invite from IIT Kharagpur to participate in their annual Techfest "Kshitij" event "INNOVISION – 2013" in February 2013. They selected our Edufest as one of the projects for a national competition to give us deeper insights into further refining our project and develop newer formats for the same. Twelve teams from different IIT's and Engineering colleges participated in the event. Four members of the Udaan team were invited as guests at the IIT to guide and judge the event. Udaan also gave certificates of participation to each of the team members from various engineering colleges across the country at the Techfest.

We also had the honour to participate in a similar event "Cognizance 2013" at IIT Roorkee where the theme was 'Woman Empowerment'. We were invited to be on the Panel of judges.

We were also invited by IIT Mumbai to be their Social Partners for their Annual Techfest to be held in Feb. 2014. Unfortunately we could not accept their proposal due to resource constraints.

OUR SUSTAINED PROJECTS

Talking about our on-going projects, many have been continuing smoothly for the last 5 years -

1. The breakfast program for 60 children at Anugraha Children's Home continues to nourish the children since 2008.
2. The 'PSR Education Fund' support for 70 children at Anugraha Vidya Mandir at Ambarnath continues to be well-sustained and supported to this day thanks to our supporters since 2009.
3. Our 'Udaan Day Care Centre' is working efficiently for nearly 80 children every day. We continue to help change the lives of these children and their families since 2010.
4. The Udaan Edufest-2012, titled "Udaan Aashaon Ki" was a thunderous success with active participation from over 240 children. The focus this year was on Career Guidance and we are happy that "Udaan Aashaon Ki" took the children to a world of many new possibilities and career vistas. The concept aimed at channelizing the interests of the children towards different careers based upon the Multiple Intelligences Theory, the foundation for which had been laid through the themes of the previous two Edufests held in 2010 and 2011. We brought in 85 practitioner Faculty members having different professions and expertise and attempted to give the children a hands-on sensitization to different vocations and guide them thereafter with interactive sessions. The children were mesmerized with the activities and the knowledge gained. The only thought they had about the program was – 'Ab Hamare Dimaag mein bahuth saare naye vichaar aur nayi ashaein jaagi hain'. The entertainment program saw a team of Dress Changers from Ukraine and Russia enthral the children through a dramatic international live performance on stage. We also facilitated an orchestra of visually disabled artistes to perform for the children. This further emphasised the thought - 'Nothing is Impossible'.

We now have raised the bar for Edufest in terms of sensitivity, focus and excellence in delivery and impact. Udaan Edufest 2013 is focussed on the “Environment” and will be conducted on 16th and 17th November. Preparations are on with a single minded focus on building a mindset of environment sensitivity and environment based responsibility among the young girls by exposing them to the various perspectives and possibilities for green careers.

5. Technology Centre: Another feather in our cap is the Technology Centre set up at Ma Niketan. 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 started operations from April 15th 2012, and is shaping well with an average daily attendance of 80 to 120 children from different grades. It has successfully completed one year and the children have shown their passion towards learning. They have learnt the basics of computers, several lessons on Microsoft Office and Internet. 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 and mathematics - **the fun way**. Several inspirational movies and clips are shared with them to mentor them towards building their life. All the children are very enthusiastic and wait for their turn to come for the classes. All children get a free hand to operate the computers individually. These classes have helped them get more focussed, disciplined and attentive. Their grades in school have also shown improvements. The credit fully goes to the Teachers and the Administrator for giving their best in nurturing these children and helping shape their future.

These children also showcased their learnings during the review visit by SNS REAAL team from Netherlands, who were impressed by what they saw. They profusely praised the Teachers and Udaan Welfare Foundation for their efforts.

As many of you are aware, we are empaneled NGO partners of Capgemini India, 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, the multi-faceted Technology Centre has become a reality. The confidence and support displayed by official project partners - M/s SNS REAAL-Netherlands, WeKare Society - Capgemini India Ltd 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 operationalizes this project in all aspects – by employing teachers, administrators etc.; designing curriculum and monitoring utilization and impact and ensuring complete maintenance of the premises including all operational expenses. We also thank the NASSCOM Foundation for helping us get original Microsoft Office Products worth INR 1 million 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. No words are sufficient to thank the unstinted support from the Rev. Sisters of Ma Niketan for helping us run the Centre flawlessly.

We had planned to initiate the children into learning Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Web Designing, Web editing, Audio and Video editing etc., but financial constraints to purchase the software and paucity of other donors have constrained us from doing so.

6. Udaan Vigyan Ki: This project has completed one year and is gradually taking shape in two schools for the underprivileged at Thane. This project resolves to make Science a hands - on learning experience and focuses on creating 'Toys from Trash'. Based on the concept of Dr. Arvind Gupta Toys, the children 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. More than 150 children participate in this once-weekly event. As time goes on, they are participating more keenly and are also building up their own experiments and showcasing their talent. We now have some committed Volunteers enrolled for the project who are facilitating this project well, under the leadership of Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar.
Presently this project has been implemented 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.
7. 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, continue to be functional. This year the greenery at Ma Niketan has not degraded during the summer as there was continuous supply of water from the waste water recycling plant. The water saved at Vehloli helped many villagers get fish for their livelihoods and nutrition continuously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nutrition Support

1. For Cancer Patients

Our initiative around health and nutrition was the starting of a new project - committing to the supply of food grains to poor and needy Cancer patients coming for treatment at Bharat Seva Sangh, Vashi. This has been successfully run by the efforts of Mrs Sharmistha Sanyal and Mr Narsimhan Narayanan, and we regularly contribute 200 kgs of Rice and 50 kgs of Pulses, 30 L of oil and 15 kgs Sugar on a monthly basis since September, 2012.

2. For Villagers

We also donated Food Grains worth Rs. 15000/ for the villagers of Pathraj Village near Karjat through the Environmental Medical Association, Mumbai. The financial support was given by Yog Vidya Pranic Healing Foundation, South Mumbai.

3. For School Children

We hosted a sumptuous nutritive lunch for nearly 300 children of Harkishen English Public School, Thane on the occasion of Holi. The financial support was given by Yog Vidya Pranic Healing Foundation, South Mumbai.

4. For AIDS children in Mukta Jivan

We celebrated Independence Day on 15th August with the children at Mukta Jivan along with children from the Lok Puram School. We served a sumptuous, rich and nutritious lunch to all the 50+ children. They thoroughly enjoyed the meals. The meals were again funded by Yog Vidya Pranic Healing Foundation, South Mumbai.

Anaemia Detection Camp: An anaemia detection camp was organised for all the children of Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane. We examined the blood of 246 children. It was heartening to note that very few children were found to be anaemic. We provided Medicines for the anaemic. The program was funded by Serco Intelenet, Menghi Alias Kikiben C Lalvani Public Charitable Trust and Dana Pharmaceuticals.

Anaemia Detection Camp: On the occasion of International Women's Day, an anaemia detection camp was organised for all the mothers of the children studying at Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane. We examined the blood of 74 mothers and provided Medicines for the anaemic. We tried a new gadget for testing Haemoglobin without a prick in these individuals and compared their results. The equipment, support and staff were provided by the manufacturers Bigsense. We hope this equipment turns out to be a game changer in Anaemia Detection especially for the women in rural areas. The program was funded by Serco Intelenet, Menghi Alias Kikiben C Lalvani Public Charitable Trust, Dana Pharmaceuticals and Bigsense.

Blood Donation: We conducted three Blood Donation Camps at the premises of Citibank, Goregaon, First Data, Thane, and Standard Chartered Bank, Thane from November onwards. We collected 170 units of blood altogether. This was donated to the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai for the cancer patients.

Toys & Clothes Distribution:

1. We collected a large quantity of old clothes and toys from various donors and shared them with the children of Barafpada village at Virar East.
2. We collected about 5000 clothes and bed sheets and donated nearly a truckload to Goonj NGO for distribution in different parts of the country.
3. 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 before distribution. We also got support from Mrs Meena Sukumaran and volunteers from Ivolunteer for final segregation before the distribution. We distributed these clothes to villagers at Pathraj village in Karjat Taluka, Vidhya Aadhar Prathisthan, Virar East, college girls of Smt. P M Doshi College, Ghatkopar. More clothes are awaiting distribution after the monsoon season.

Blanket Donation: We received a request from Bharat Seva Sangh, Vashi for supply of Blankets for the poor Cancer Patients residing in their premises. The winter was at its peak in Mumbai then. We immediately got into action and through the efforts of Mrs Seema Indulkar, we got a donor who was kind enough to give us 40 Blankets of high quality.

Screening of Movie: Nearly 200 underprivileged school children of Harkishan English School got an opportunity to watch 'Life of Pi' in 3-D at Cinemastar Theatre in Thane through the aegis of Udaan Welfare Foundation. The show and the snacks were sponsored by the Cinemastar Theatre management. Children thoroughly enjoyed the movie on 26th March, 2013 as a pre-Holi surprise.

Independence Day Celebration with AIDS children at Mukta Jivan – With great enthusiasm, the Udaan team along with children from Lok Puram School, Thane and our volunteers celebrated the Independence Day on August 2013 in a gala fashion. Children danced to the melodious tunes of the orchestra and enjoyed a surprise item – Juggling. The school children and the volunteers mingled and played with the resident children and enjoyed thoroughly.

Eco Tour – An Eco tour was organised for about 60 children from Harkishan English Medium School, Gandhinagar, Thane to Murbad, Kalyan. This full-day program gave these underprivileged children an opportunity to see different flora and fauna.

Tree Plantation - Udaan Welfare Foundation organised a tree plantation drive with the active support and participation of over 41 children from the Std. VII of Lok Puram Public School, Thane. About 150 saplings were planted at Mukta Jivan, Vehloli. These children have been participating in the tree plantation initiative for the last three years. They were happy to see the trees planted by them growing well in the last two years.

A large quantity of **Stationery items** were donated to the school run by Environmental Medical Association at Pathraj Village, Karjat. This was supported by Serco Intelenet employees.

Diabetes Detection camp – In association with the Veteran Citizens Forum, a Senior Citizens Club, we organised a Diabetes Detection Camp for the Senior Citizens. More than 100 members participated. This activity was supported by Novartis and Sun Pharma.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We are proud to be officially registered as official NGO partners with Serco Intelenet Global, India, a multinational BPO. Employees from Serco Intelenet have been participating with us in our various programs and have also supported us financially. Our projects have been highly appreciated by Serco UK in their 25th year celebrations and they have promised us to help us in our projects.

Our projects at Anugraha Vidya Mandir, Anugraha Children's Home Ambarnath, Oswal Female Education Society, Ajmer and Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane, Udaan Edufest 2012 have received constant support from them, and for this we thank the entire Intelenet team for all their generosity and active support.

Our association with Capgemini and WeKare Society continues to grow and their continued support helps us nurture the Technology Centre. A special mention to the staff at the Technology Centre - Mrs Shaila Kamdar, Ms Uma M. Balasubramanian, Ms Anuja Hemant Kumar, Mrs Mythily Iyer for nurturing the children and guiding them to a better future.

We have now registered with Ivolunteers (an NGO networking with NGOs and Corporate volunteers) for helping us with several volunteers for our projects and content writing for the website and Souvenir. We are also registered now with Guidestar India and Halabol to increase our presence on the net.

We have also got great support from NASSCOM Foundation and we thank them heartily for helping us in our IT Projects.

Udaan Welfare Foundation would like to specially thank the following volunteers for their continuous selfless support:-

Dr Roopali Deshpande, Mrs Anita Das, Dr Anuja Luniya, Mr Tanveer Singh Rainu, Mr Nandu Aiyer, Mr Mahesh Ananth, Mrs Meena Sukumaran, Mrs Mythili Iyer, Dr. Karuna, Mr Vishal Lohia, Ms Pradya Khutafule, Ms Saily Bhanushali; all volunteers who shared their skills and time during the Edufest 2012, all volunteers from Ivolunteers 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 Susanna Pinto, Mr Vaibhav Masurkar and Mr Kailash Galruth. A special word of thanks to all the Faculty members who came forward to share their expertise in the career guidance initiative through the Udaan Edufest 2012.

No words are sufficient 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 the much-needed strength to take our projects to newer heights. We would like to specially mention the regular support by Serco Intelenet Global Ltd., Marico Ltd., SNS REAAL Netherlands, WeKare Society, Capgemini Ltd., FABINDIA, Yog Vidya Pranic Healing Foundation and many others in our projects and we aspire to build a lasting relationship with them.

From a social media perspective, our website hits continue to rise, and we receive a number of communications from interns and volunteers who are keen to contribute and collaborate with us. All of these are extremely positive indicators, and I would like to thank each and every one of our supporters for the confidence and faith they have shown in us.

We continue on our mission of empowering the underprivileged with Compassion and Humility. We hope for ongoing support in areas beyond finance – the priceless gifts of time, knowledge and skills. We look forward to having more volunteers join hands with us in making a difference to society as we inspire hope for a better tomorrow for all.

OUR NEW PROJECTS – The Way Forward...

1. We have started a new project for Senior Citizens – “Bridging the Gap”. We intend teaching computer-handling skills to Senior Citizens, empowering them to use technology to their advantage. We are teaching them the use of the Internet, Emails, social media etc. Our first batch has already completed 10 sessions and they wish to continue. More Senior Citizens are being approached to take advantage of this facility. In this regard we have procured two refurbished Laptops and are in the process of purchasing a new one. We hope to make this a new sustainable project.
2. We are embarking on a new project to teach English, Maths and Computers to the children of Harkishan English Public School, Thane with the help of some employees from Accenture. We plan to teach maths in an innovative way using the artefacts prepared by another NGO ‘Jodo Gyan”.

This write-up summarises our current and future projects, highlighting our resolve to make a difference in response to the needs our society seems to reflect at different points of time. The activities of Udaan have always aimed for excellence in all endeavours. Members, partners, donors, volunteers and well-wishers have all individually contributed towards making these initiatives worth their while.

As always, we tremendously value the painstaking efforts and investment of time more than just the financial contributions of each of our stakeholders. We have always found that as our relationships deepen, we have been able to collectively handle any constraint – be it funds, efforts, technology, resources or any other.

We consider it a great privilege and honour to be part of such a committed team as Udaan readies itself to scale new heights of service towards society.