

Annual Report of Udaan Welfare Foundation - Year 2013-2014

We are pleased to present our 6th Annual Report of the Udaan Welfare Foundation. Our commitment towards developing sustainable projects has continued for the year 2013-2014. We continue to execute our ongoing projects with great dedication and pride and are observing the benefits being imbibed into the beneficiaries' lives. Our team's passionate involvement and participation in most of the projects has brought accolades from the beneficiaries as well as partners. We feel enthused and motivated to continue our efforts towards empowering lives.

Our members continue to devote their time and resources to empower the growth of the organisation and we continue to get more committed and dedicated volunteers join our team.

OUR SUSTAINED PROJECTS

With regard to our on-going projects, many have been continuing smoothly for the last 6 years -

1. The **breakfast program** for 60 children at Anugraha Children's Home continues to nourish the children daily since 2008.
2. The '**PSR Education Fund**' support for about 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**' was working efficiently for nearly 50 children every day. We continued to help change the lives of these children and their families since 2010 but due to structural changes and other administrative issues it has been temporarily put on hold since December, 2013.
4. The **Udaan Edufest-2013**, titled "*Udaan Hari Bhari Zindagi Ki*" was a huge success with active participation from over 260 children on 16th & 17th November, 2013.
Udaan Edufest 2013 was focussed on the "Environment". The children were prepared 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.
We were ably supported by students from the Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Pune for the preparations of Edufest 2013.
5. **Technology Centre:** The Technology Centre has raised the bar of the children's technological knowledge successfully and has completed more than two years. The average daily attendance continues to be 80 to 120 children from different grades. The children 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 had 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 are given a free hand to operate the computers individually. These classes have helped them get more focussed, disciplined and attentive. The younger kids are being nurtured to develop good habits from the initial development stages. Their academic grades in school have also shown remarkable improvements in this year across all the grades and schools. The credit fully goes to the Teachers and the Administrator for giving their best in nurturing these children and helping shape their future. Many children have learnt to prepare their Resumes and our training has helped them get jobs after the completion of studies.

These children were also assessed 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. One of the team members commented “These children know much more than our children back home”. The CSR Coordinator for Capgemini, Ms Dhanashree Page accompanying the team messaged –“The visit was good. We had two first time visitors from SNS REAAL, Netherlands who were equally impressed by student’s preparedness in MS Office. Overall Nice and Happy experience. One good thing about today’s visit – There were many girls who stood up and spoke about their work... Great improvement since last time as many were shy then..”

The confidence and support displayed by official project partners - M/s SNS REAAL- Netherlands and WeKare Society (The CSR arm of Capgemini India) 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 intend to start teaching TALLY accounting software to the senior girls and will soon be installing the same. The Sisters have also appreciated the discernible improvement in the academic performance of the children of various schools. The unstinted support from the Rev. Sisters of Ma Niketan for helping us run the Centre flawlessly is a huge encouragement for us as well as the teachers. God Bless them with all His might.

6. **Udaan Vigyan Ki:** This project has completed two years and has made a lasting impression in the minds of the children studying 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 a team of committed Volunteers enrolled for the project who are facilitating this project very well, under the leadership of Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar. We plan to organise a Science fair for these children to showcase their learnings as well as talent. Presently this project has been implemented in two schools – Shri Harkishan English High 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 as our volunteer team grows further.
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 too, 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 has continued to help many villagers get fish for their livelihoods and nutrition continuously apart from the regular water supply to the institution.

OTHER PROJECTS:

Education

Education Sponsorship: One of the major developments this year is the commitment to support the higher education of meritorious girls to the tune of 1 million rupees per year. Mr. Dhiren R Savla in memory of his late sister Ms. Bharati N Gala has very kindly suggested that he will contribute funds to the tune of Rs. 1 million per annum for meritorious girls based on the identification and recommendation by Udaan Welfare Foundation. As a result the costs of higher education for 7 girls from Smt. P. N. Doshi College, Ghatkopar were funded through the grant received from Mr. Dhiren R Savla. We heartily thank Mr Savla for his generous support.

Mini Edufest: A Mini-Edufest, an innovative combination of entertainment and education was held for 110 children of Harkishan English School, Thane and Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane on 15th March, 2014. The event themed 'Mere Khwab, Meri Zindagi' encouraged children to follow their dreams with dedication and gave them useful information on essential aspects such as personality development and life-skills. This program was ably supported by volunteers from Serco Intelenet. Mr Satwinder S Rainu led this project to a successful conclusion.

Summer Camps:

My Time; My Fun Summer Camp (Patlipada) – 35 Students of Success Academy studying in various grades from the 8th to 12th Std. took part in a Summer Camp held at Patlipada from 2nd May to 1st June, 2014.

The objective of these summer camps was to impart knowledge and life skills through fun-filled activities for the children. The topics chosen were Personality Development, Public Speaking skills, Environment Awareness, Science Projects, Quiz Competitions, and Crochet and sewing skills. Independent Volunteers as well as some from various organisations like Paryavaran Dakshata Manch (PDM), Image Management Professionals Association (IMPA) and members of Udaan Welfare Foundation came forward to teach the children throughout the month. There was an instant rapport developed between the tutors and the children and there was great energy in the sessions. The children matched the enthusiasm of the volunteers teaching various skills with their eagerness and deep desire to learn as much as possible. The Summer Camps were a great success and the children benefitted immensely. A special mention must be made of the interactive quiz competitions conducted by Mr. JC Agrawal and Mrs. Manju Agarwal which were highly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by the children. We thank Mr Sunil Patil and his team from Success Academy for making this event a real success. We also thank Mrs Jyothi Prakash and her team from IMPA, Mrs Shreelata Menon and her team from PDM for their sheer dedication and devotion. Mrs Meena Sukumaran mesmerized the children with the Science project – Toys from Trash and Mrs Salwa Imran made the children get interested in sewing and crochet.

The Closing Ceremony organised to present their achievements at the end of camp was co-ordinated and compered by the children themselves, showcasing the enormous amount of natural talent they possessed.

My Time; My Fun Summer Camp (Ma Niketan) – 36 resident children of different age groups from Ma Niketan, Thane attended a summer camp on the Ma Niketan premises from 5th May to 1st June, 2014.

The children were trained on creative activities such as Warli painting, calligraphy, paper quilling, card making, folk dances and jewellery-making ensuring a mix of entertainment and education. These sessions were conducted under the leadership of Mrs Deepa Sandeep and her team.

The children proudly gave presentations on all the various arts they had learned in the preceding month during the closing ceremony.

Computer Donation: A desktop computer was donated to Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Veer Savarkar Nagar, Thane which is a school for underprivileged children. This has been kindly sponsored by Mr. Sudeep Bhalla.

Health, Nutrition & Wellness

Anaemia Detection Camp: An anaemia detection camp was held at Harkishan English Public School, Thane on 5th October 2013. Around a 100 children were examined. Medicines were provided free of cost for the children who were anaemic.

Blood Donation: We conducted a Blood Donation Camp at the premises of First Data, Thane and collected 53 units of blood. This was donated to the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai for the cancer patients.

Another blood donation camp was organised by Oxford Society, Hiranandani Estate, Thane and Udaan Welfare Foundation. 35 units of blood was collected for the Wamanrao Oak Blood Bank, Thane on 28th September, 2014 under the leadership of Mr Prabodh Halde.

A **Dental Health Check-up camp** was organized for 250 students of Harkishan English Public School, Thane from 21st January to 5th February 2014. The students enthusiastically came forward to get their teeth checked. This camp was conducted by Dr Karuna Devange of Smiles Dental Clinic, Tulsidham, Thane. Many students completed the follow-up treatment as advised during the check-up.

Nutrition Support for Cancer Patients: Our initiative around health and nutrition by committing to the regular supply of food grains to poor and needy Cancer patients coming for treatment at Bharat Seva Sangh, Vashi is doing well. This has been successfully run by the efforts of Mrs Sharmistha Sanyal and Mr Narsimhan Narayanan, and we continue to 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.

Rice and Food Grains Donation:

Thanks to Mr. Pradeep Nair, around 400 kgs of rice were made available for distribution to NGOs in various rural areas at subsidised cost. 100 kgs were each distributed to Pathraj Village, Karjat, Vidya Aadhar Pratishthan, Virar, Dharma Bharati Mission, Chembur and Mukta Jivan, Vehloli on 8th February, 2014.

On the occasion of the anniversary of their respected Guruji, the Yoga Vidya Pranik Healing Foundation of South Mumbai, Mumbai donated food grains (1 kg Rice, 250 gms Dal, ½ kg Jaggery) to 200 children of Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane on 19th March, 2014.

On 5th April, 2014, food grains (1 kg Rice, 250 gms Dal, ½ kg Jaggery) were distributed to around 200 children of Harkishan Public School, Thane. This was made possible due to the kind contribution of Mr. and Mrs. Sunil Singh.

Another 400 kgs of rice was distributed among Pathraj Village, Karjat, Vidya Aadhar Pratishthan, Virar, Dharma Bharati Mission, Chembur, Mukta Jivan, Vehloli and Anugrah Seva Mandal, Ambernath on 8th May, 2014 due to the efforts of Mr. Pradeep Nair and multiple donor support.

150 school children from Harkishan English Public School, Thane and 50 selected residents of Patlipada slums were the beneficiaries of food grain (1 kg Rice, 250 gms Dal, ½ kg Jaggery) distributed by the Yoga Vidya Pranik Healing Foundation of South Mumbai, Mumbai on 15th August.

Welfare

Movie Show: Around 300 delighted children from Ma Niketan and Harkishan Public School, Thane were treated to a special screening of the movie 'Krrish 3' at Cinema Star, Thane on 25th November, 2013. This special show was generously hosted by Cinema Star, Thane.

Star Bazar Tour for Children: On 8th March, 2014, 24 children from Sri Ram Vidya Mandir, Thane were taken on a visit to the Star Bazar supermarket in Korum Mall, Thane. The children were taken around and made aware of the various activities of the store such as stocking, accounting, packing, etc. The children also played games, had a sumptuous lunch and the trip ended with gift hampers for each child from Star Bazar.

Toys & Books Distribution:

Thanks to Ducon Technologies, toys and books were distributed to 50 children of Harkishan Public School, Thane on 16th January, 2014.

The Trimurti School, Thane very kindly donated children's books to 250 students of the Anugrah Vidya Mandir, Ambarnath on 18th April, 2014.

On 18th January, 2014, Kwench - the Corporate Library, kindly donated books from their corporate library to 250 students of Harkishan Public School, Thane.

Kwench - the Corporate Library, made a generous donation of 200 children's books to the Dharma Bharati Mission, Chembur on 18th February, 2014.

Interaction of School Children with Senior Citizens: The students of Lok Puram Public School enjoyed meeting and speaking with the senior citizens residing in Mukta Jivan, Vehloli. The 30 senior citizens felt very refreshed after talking to the cheerful children.

Interaction of School Children with Immunocompromised Children:

We celebrated Independence Day on 15th August, 2014 with the children at Mukta Jivan along with 40 children from the Lok Puram School and 40 students of Success Academy, Patlipada. We served a sumptuous, rich and nutritious lunch to all the 50+ children as well as the participating children.

The school children from Lok Puram Public School and Success Academy along with the volunteers mingled and played with the resident children and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

There was a big team of volunteers from Serco Intelenet Pvt. Ltd. to cheer up the children and Senior Citizens.

Environment

Tree Plantation: The tradition of planting trees was continued at Mukta Jivan, Vehloli. Around 40 children from Lok Puram Public School, Thane participated with their usual enthusiasm on 15th August and planted about 150 saplings. They were ably supported by volunteers from Serco Intelenet.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS:

Udaan received the '80 G' registration from the Income Tax department, which will benefit donors with 50% rebate and help increase our donor database.

Udaan was recognized with the prestigious **15th Samaj Shakti Award 2014 for Medicine**. Dr. Luniya received this esteemed award at a glittering function on 24th May, 2014 at Shanmukhananda Hall,

Mumbai organised by the Hariharputra Bhajan Samaj, Chembur Mumbai in the presence of more than 1500 distinguished guests.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Employees from Serco BPO Pvt. Ltd. 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 financially helped us for our projects.

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

We are also registered now with Guidestar India, Halaboli, United Way of Mumbai, Help your NGO organisations. All these organisations have enrolled us after due diligence and this association will help us raise funds or provide quality Corporate Volunteers for our various projects.

We are also trying to raise funds through our registration with the Standard Chartered Marathon to be held in January, 2015. This endorsement will also help increase our presence in the community.

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 Mahesh Ananth, Mrs Meena Sukumaran, Mrs Mythili Iyer, Dr. Karuna Devange, Mrs Jyothi Prakash, Mrs Deepa Sandeep, Mrs Rally Sandeep, Mrs Ruma Nandi, Mrs Manjusha Amin, Mrs Salwa Imran, Ms Mariyam Imran, Mr Vilas Chavan, Mr Ganesh Patil, Ms Pradyna Khutafale, Ms Saily Bhanushali, Mr Nikheel Kamble, Mrs Mansi Mehtras, Mr Akash Veershetty, Mr Prachodaya Kulkarni, Dr. Bhooshan Choudhary, Ms Ruta Mangla, Mr Yateen Shinde, Mr Naveen Hinduja, Mrs Priyanka Bhingarde ; all volunteers who shared their skills and time during the Edufest 2013, teachers from Lok Puram Public School Thane, all volunteers from Serco especially Mr Vaibhav Masurkar and Mr Kailash Galuth. A special word of thanks to all the Faculty members who came forward to share their expertise in the Environmental initiative through the Udaan Edufest 2013.

Our active participation and support of members Mr B Ganesh, Mr J C Agrawal, Mr Satwinder Singh Rainu, Mr Ramnath Dixit, Mrs Rama Chandrasekhar, Mrs Seema Indulkar, Mrs Varinder Kaur, Mrs Suseela Joish, Mr Haresh Chawla, Mr Nandu Aiyer, Mrs Meena Sukumaran, Mr B S Kumar, Mr Pradeep Nair, Mr Sandeep Ramakrishnan, Mr Bharat Gada, Ms Anandita Kumar, Mrs Karuna Chavan, Mrs Manju Agrawal, Mr Murali Aiyer, Mr Prabodh Halde, Mr Narayanan Narasimhan, Dr Prasad Ramanathan, Mr Sudipta Sanyal, Mrs Sharmistha Sanyal, Mrs Poonam Singh, Mr Sunil Patil in various projects helped us build the organisation further. We welcome Mr Anand Chhatre back to our family and thank him for helping us print our Souvenir with International quality, which has been appreciated by one and all.

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 BPO Pvt. Ltd., Marico Ltd., SNS REAAL Netherlands, WeKare Society, Yoga Vidya Pranik Healing Foundation of South Mumbai and many others in our projects and we aspire to build a lasting relationship with them.

From a social media perspective, our website has been revamped and we have got good feedback on the layout. Many more additions are needed to complete the information about our past projects;

time constraints have prevented us so far. We continue to receive a number of communications from interns and volunteers who are keen to contribute and collaborate with 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 just embarked on a new project to support the **higher education of lesser privileged girls**. This has been possible by the generous commitment of donation upto 1 million rupees through Udaan Welfare Foundation for the higher education fees, as mentioned above. We request members to come forward and recommend the names and details of the needy girls. Udaan will do a due diligence and then recommend for the donation. The educational expenses will be directly paid to the college.

2. **‘Nari Shakti Ki Udaan’** - With our rich experience in Health-related issues, we are happy to propose a unique Holistic Health Project to nip the major health problems arising due to oral Hygiene, Anaemia & Malnutrition, Personal and Hand Hygiene amongst underprivileged / lesser privileged girls. Further, we wish to take the project to the next level by providing employability opportunities to these underprivileged girls in the above related areas.

Project Objectives:

a. To improve the current health of nearly 10000 (Nearly 5000 current and an expected 1000+ floating population over 6 years) of underprivileged / low Income group adolescent girls by:

- (i) Providing them free medical assistance and health-related information
- (ii) Inspiring and empowering them to adopt preventive health strategies
- (iii) Catalysing prevention or change from Tobacco / Gutkha addiction to holistic well-being through Nutritional assistance, Personal Hygiene in their society and helping them become change agents in their respective communities

b. Enabling employability possibilities in the health arena through training and / or hands-on exposure in a social enterprise.

We are exploring corporate support and are hoping to get the funding. Depending on the quantum of support, we will move accordingly.

The expected beneficiary college will be Smt. P M Doshi Girls' College at Ghatkopar, Mumbai. We are in talks with the management for permission to implement the project.

This is a very large project and will need constant support to run it efficiently and I am sure this project will lift Udaan Welfare Foundation to an altogether different pedestal.

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.