

INSAF Newsletter

November 2007
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INSAF HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH 2007

As November approaches, the picture on how we will do this year in our total project efforts is still emerging. Some of the major projects are doing great while many of the others are yet to see action for the Year 2007. This is not an unusual pattern - so let us stay tuned to see how we do in Yr 2007 relative to our previous history.

Highlights from this year:

- ♦ **Arun and Padma Cariappa, Shreedhar and Padma Murthy**, and about 16 other families had worked hard during these last two years to organize funding for Pratham Mysore. They have sent over \$5,600 this year to support Pratham Mysore's efforts to reduce illiteracy among the underprivileged children. More on this inside this edition.
- ♦ **Joginder and Meera Kundra** had made a major commitment last year of \$51,000 to support the building of a children's home in Pondicherry. After contributing \$25,000 last year, they have sent an additional \$31,000 this year to exceed their pledge in view of the \$-Rs rate decline and increased project costs. **Madan & Usha Goel** have also added \$2,000 to the project. The Kundras have also continued their on-going support for children's education in Jharkhand with a \$5,000 contribution.
- ♦ **Vasu and Lalitha Vasudevan** with their family and friends, had committed to a goal of raising \$75,000 (or as much as possible) to help complete and grow a school in Eagandiyur, Kerala into a "Kerala Nalanda". Their group had sent \$13,000 last year and now have followed up with \$2,176 this year.
- ♦ **Ashok and Sanju Soni** have been committed to supporting the Om Parkash Soni Charitable Hospital in Jagraon, Punjab, which provides free medicines and other testing services to needy patients irrespective of caste, creed, or religion. This year they have sent \$5,000 to support the hospital.

Please see inside this Newsletter for further information on some of these and other activities this year. On the internal organization side, INSAF is working to ensure that due diligence documentation is on file for all projects over \$1,000. In addition, the financial records are being computerized. Also, here is an appeal to Readers who have not acted on any project so far this year: Please — you know you already have the spirit — just need to act on it (today !). Please keep in mind that a US dollar is now about Rs. 39 — so we need to calculate our contribution accordingly.

Photographs below show a children's home being built in Pondicherry. The children's home (Jeevan Prabhat) is being built through the Arya Pritinidhi Sabha at a cost of over \$100,000 — about \$56,000 of which is coming from **Joginder & Meera Kundra**. The home is being built for the benefit of children affected by the Tsunami of Yr 2004.



PRATHAM MYSORE (Karnataka)

Pratham India has made very impressive progress in helping reduce illiteracy among the disadvantaged children and women in India since its start in 1990. According to its website, Pratham now helps over a million children in 20 states. Among them is Karnataka, where Pratham Mysore started out in 2002.

Pratham's goal is to ensure that every child goes to school and learns well. They want to improve the quality of primary school education and to make sure there are no new illiterates starting with the Year 2010. Another strategic goal of Pratham Mysore, which has three locations across Mysore, is to impart teaching skills to as many unemployed women as possible.

Last year, **Arun and Padma Cariappa** enlisted the support of 18 other families to support the cause for Pratham Mysore. Many of the other families were not even of Indian descent but joined because they still appreciated the cause. Each of the families contributed an amount ranging from \$50 to \$1,000. In addition, Shreedhara and Padma Murthy also have joined the project.

Thanks to these organizational efforts, a total of about \$8,500 has been sent to support the work at Pratham Mysore.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR TSUNAMI PROJECT

You might recall that in the first phase of this project to help the 2004 Tsunami affected children, text books, syllabus guides and question banks were distributed to 614 students with a contribution of \$3,400 during 2005-2006. This is in the hard-to-reach island of Hut Bay in the Little Andaman in cooperation with Shyamprasad Institute of Social Service (SISS).

We are pleased to report that the second phase of the project will hopefully be completed by the end of November. Under Phase II, the High School in Hut Bay is receiving a current generation computer system, along with about 16 educational CDs in Physics, Chemistry, Math, Biology, economics, Geography, Political Science & History with a contribution of \$1,775.

This project is being sponsored jointly by 11 INSAT families (Chokhani, Harshavardhana, Kapur, Kundra, Lad, Malhotra, Mehan, Murthy, Paliwal, Sachdev, Sharma). Phase III will be determined in Yr 2008. One consideration would be to provide for internet access to the students — if internet access becomes available on Hit Bay by then.

BHANBHOURI SCHOOL (Dist Sangrur, Punjab)

Dr. Sudershan Bhateja has been sponsoring projects at Government High School, Banbhouri, District Sangrur, Punjab, for many years. He and Sh. Ravi Manrao of INSAT have donated several thousand dollars to Banbhouri. In February 2007, Dr. Bhateja was able to personally visit GHS, Banbhouri. He met with the Headmistress, the teaching staff, and the village elders. He was extremely pleased to note that the school had made tremendous progress since his last visit several years ago. They had added several rooms, a computer laboratory, bigger and better bathrooms, and some furniture. The attached note from the headmistress gives a rough breakdown on how the above money was used. The school still needs additional computers and software.

The staff and the village elders were pleased to hear the motivational speech that Dr. Bhateja delivered to the ~200 students, especially since it reinforced the many good things that the staff, the parents, and the village elders also try to emphasize. Some students wasting time and money on TV and "tuitions" came up and was appropriately discussed. It was extremely encouraging to see that the teaching staff and the village elders had finally convinced the Punjab Govt. to match part of the monies donated through INSAT. The synergy with the school staff, the parents, and the village elders is especially pleasing for Dr. Bhateja. That is what is a key factor in the progress that has been made.

Headmistress Govt. High School Banbhauri [Sangrur]	
ਵੇਲੇ : ਮੁੱਖ ਅਧਿਆਪਕ/ਅਧਿਆਪਿਕ ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਹਾਈ ਸਕੂਲ, ਬਨਭੌਰੀ ਵਾ: ਧੂਰੀ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸੰਗਰੂਰ (ਪੰਜਾਬ)	ਫੋਨ : 0167-247356 ਵੇਲੇ : President INSAT U.S.A.
ਨੰ:	ਮਿਤੀ: 26.2.07

Subject: - Information about the proposed projects which have been maintained from the fund sent by INSAT to Govt. High School, Banbhauri (Sangrur).

Sir,

The projects are as under.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Furnishing of Computer Lab. | 20000-00 |
| 2. Computer fees paid for poor students | 2000-00 |
| 3. Purchase of One computer and other accessories of computer for school use. | 35000-00 |
| 4. Furnishing of New Science Lab. | 50000-00 |
| 5. Scholarship for brilliant students. | 15000-00 |
| 6. To help for poor students. | 15000-00 |
| 7. Furniture for students and for other needs. | 15000-00 |
| | <u>152000-00</u> |

Headmistress
 Govt. High School
 BANBHOURI [Sangrur]

ADIVASI CHILD EDUCATION, LATHAKHAMAN, JHARKHAND

In Lathakhaman/Bhagachata, Jharkhand, Dr. Subhash Chandra, who is a 1967 Physics Ph.D. from Caltech and now retired after a long professional career in the US, runs a school through his Village Hope Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to the education of over 300 children. A check for \$5,000 has been sent recently with the sponsorship of **Joginder & Meera Kundra**.

OSDAV SCHOOL, KAITHAL, HARYANA

Ashima Gandhi, an XIth grade student at the OSDAV Public School in Kaithal, Haryana, is this year's recipient of the Late Shri Milkhi Ram Gulla and Late Shmt Kersa Devi Gulla award of Rs. 4,810 from a trust fund set up several years ago by Manju and the Late Bindi Chexal in honor of Manju's grandparents.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY HINDI COURSE

Professor Ram Chaudhari, who has sustained a long-standing effort in supporting the Bhulpur Shiksha Samiti in the Etawah district of U.P., has been working to support at least one other cause. That cause is the teaching of Hindi at Rutgers University. A few years ago, elementary Hindi classes were started at Rutgers as a result of fund raising and other efforts by Dr. Chaudhari and others.

This year, Dr. Chaudhari reached an understanding with Rutgers that if he could raise \$10,000, the University would offer a second i.e. intermediate course in Hindi. Several people at INSAF also agreed to support Dr. Chaudhari, pooling together \$1,000 to help him reach his overall target. Consequently, an INSAF check for \$1,000 has been sent this year. Joining together in this effort have been Santosh Chokhani, PK & Suresh Malhotra, Ashok & Darshan Mehan, Ramesh & Pratibha Paliwal, Bhav & Kaye Sharma, along with INSAF matching funds. The overall result is that Rutgers will offer Hindi 101, 102 as well as Hindi 201, 202 in its course offerings. Although this was a one-time contribution, the understanding is that Rutgers University will continue to offer these courses without requiring additional funding from the community.

VILLAGE ADOPTION PROJECT

A small group of INSAF families has "adopted" a small village, Ramalingapuram in Andhra Pradesh with the intent of a long-term commitment. During 2006-2007, a classroom as shown below has been added to the Primary School at a cost of about \$4,450.



Foundation stone being laid with local community leaders.



Village procession on the occasion of inauguration.



A view of the finished product — the new room is ready.

CHILD SPONSORSHIPS REACH 19

The child sponsorship program at INSAF began in 1999 when **Manju & the Late Bindi Chexal** sponsored **Mohit Gupta and Ram Parvesh** at Bal Niketan, Panchkula. Bal Niketan had been founded earlier by former INSAF Exec Satish Sharma's Late Dad Shri J. D. Sharma. Mohit and Ram have gone on to be two success stories. Mohit is now a computer engineer and Ram is a professional chef. Another success story is **Sonal Kothawale** in Pune sponsored by **Aruna Marathé**. Sonal is now working as a data entry operator and pursuing a commerce degree. Finally, another child **Amandeep**, also at Bal Niketan, has graduated from the program because his family's financial situation has improved. Amandeep had been sponsored by **Ashok & Usha Sachdev**.

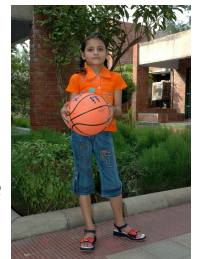
Beyond the above four, an additional 12 sponsorships are currently active:

1. **Amalapushpam**, 17, Paduapuram, Kerala
(Bhav & Kaye Sharma)
2. **Shailesh Shinde**, 15, Pune, Maharashtra
(Raj & Padmashri Lad, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma)
3. **Rutuja Khade**, 14, Pune, Maharashtra
(Aruna Marathé)
4. **Arti Waikar**, 13, Pune, Maharashtra
(Raj & Padmashri Lad, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma)
5. **Raisa Khurshid**, 13, Pune, Maharashtra
(Raj & Padmashri Lad, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma)
6. **Bhavna Sharma**, 4, Rajpura, Punjab
(Kumar & Sudesh Kapur, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma)
7. **Shalini Kumari**, 5, Rajpura, Punjab
(Ash & Darshan Mehan, and Bhav & Kaye Sharma)
8. **Akanksha Singh**, 3, Rajpura, Punjab
(Jogi & Meera Kundra)
9. **Dyanshewar Shinde**, 18, Pune, Maharashtra
(Jogi & Meera Kundra)
10. **Sinto Raphael**, 12, Karukutty, Kerala
(Jogi & Meera Kundra)
11. **Pooja**, 14, Panchkula, Haryana
(Jogi & Meera Kundra)
12. **Anju**, 12, Panchkula, Haryana
(Ashok & Usha Sachdev)

During 2007, an additional 3 child sponsorships have been added, bringing the current active total to 15, and the overall historical total number to 19.

CHILD SPONSORSHIPS (Contd)

1. **Shreya**, Rajpura, Punjab
Shreya is a 1st Std student and is described as being calm, happy, sensitive, and well behaved (qualities your editor would also like to have). Sponsor: Sucheta Sachdev
2. **Krish**, Rajpura, Punjab
Krish is Shreya's younger brother, and is described as an active and a smart boy with a cheerful disposition (qualities also coveted by your editor). Krish goes to Pre-Nursery.
Sponsor: Jogi & Meera Kundra
3. **Bharti**, Rajpura, Punjab
Bharti is the elder sister of Shreya and Krish. Bharti is described as simple, sober, friendly, and a good student with a cheerful disposition (your editor is getting jealous of the good qualities the three siblings have).
Sponsor: Raj & Padmashri Lad;
Bhav & Kaye Sharma



We might note that with Shreya's sponsorship, Sucheta Sachdev, as a young person herself, becomes the first member from our next generation to make a long-term annual commitment to a child sponsorship.

If you would also like to sponsor a child in India, please contact the editor. Please understand that it may take several months for the sponsorship arrangements to get set up.

The concept here is to make a longer term (>10 years) commitment to the education of a specific child at a cost of about \$160-200 per year. This provides a partial but crucial support to the child in cooperation with a few organizations in India. The sponsor has the satisfaction of seeing the child progress, with hope and confidence, toward becoming a productive member of the mainstream society.

RAPAR SCHOOL (KUTCH) PROJECT

In 2001, a major earthquake hit the Kutch - Bhuj area of Gujarat. It was one of two deadliest earthquakes to hit India in its recorded history. About 20,000 people were killed, 166,000 injured, and 600,000 left homeless. With **Rajeev Paliwal's** coordination, INSAF completed a project in 2001-2002 to build a 2-room school in Mithapur village in the Rapar Taluka in cooperation with two India NGOs.

Now in 2006, the Walji sisters (Dr. Laila Alidina, Naseem Walji, Perviz Walji, Nargis Walji, Raziya Gulamhussein, and Nasrin Jivani) decided to honor the memory of their parents, the respected late Hasham and the late Daulatkhanu Adam Walji, by providing access to education for migrant children. So far, a total of \$2,000 has been sent in support of this project (of which \$1,000 has been sent in Yr 2007). Pictures below show the Rapar School activities in progress.



NEW PROJECTS UNDER PREPARATION

Implementing development and education related projects is what INSAF exists for (as distinct from social and/or religious activities). Hence, we should all be involved in supporting one or more projects. Currently, there are three new projects under preparation — if any or all of these appeal to you, please do join in support by sending an e-mail to the Editor.

SUN, Mumbai, Maharashtra

SUN (Support for the Unemployed and Needy) provides tailoring classes in villages near Mumbai to young women who have otherwise dropped out of school. This gives the young women a skill with which to earn a living. Additionally in Mumbai, SUN trains individuals from very poor families to learn a trade which gives them the ability to make a living, e.g. as Chauffeurs, Nursing Assistants. INSAF member funding would be directed at the training of a batch of individuals.

ANIMAL INDIA TRUST, NEW DELHI

Animal India Trust aims to help street animals in New Delhi. The organization was founded by a woman veterinarian who is originally from the Indian State of Manipur, Dr. Devi. She is now assisted by another young veterinarian, Dr. Pathak. Their latest major project is to tackle the issues posed by an estimated 50,000 stray dogs in New Delhi. INSAF member funding would be to support their efforts.

ARZOO KIDS, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Arzoo kids was started by Ms. Sulekha Ali, a young woman who had originally started to work with the Gujarat riot affected children. Arzoo kids is an informal school which aims to help poor and disadvantage children from all religions with their school education. Arzoo currently helps about 50 kids by stimulating their interest in education using tools like games, music, and other educational but fun learning exercises. INSAF funding would go towards funding Arzoo's activities—funding which is needed greatly.