

# Ashwini Charitable Trust Newsletter

DECEMBER 2007

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## Overview

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We wish you and your family A Very **Happy New Year 2008**.

Our mission is to identify the hidden talents and abilities of our sponsored children, give them special training and help them either make a hobby or profession around. We believe in Howard Gardener's Multiple Intelligences Theory and arrange various activities to identify each child's dominant intelligence. Till last year we could only offer these to some of the children. However from January 2007 we have consistently developed activities and programs for developing talents in all the children, besides we have also inducted special volunteers who specialize in dance, direction, personality development and art. We plan to hold foundation classes in all the above and having identified the exceptionally talented help them to excel in these fields.

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## FIRST EVER PUBLIC SHOW

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On 2<sup>nd</sup> December children's development program public performance of the dance-drama "**The Last Call**". Our first ever event for the public showcasing the dancing and acting talents of the children was a great hit. This in-house production was completely managed by the volunteers. We scripted, directed and choreographed the entire production which was staged at a concert hall in Indranagar. Nearly 500 people came to the show and since our mission is to follow Howard Gardener's Multiple Intelligences Theory and thereby identify, train and develop various talents and abilities in the children this dance-drama, 'The Last Call' provided the children with an excellent opportunity.

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## REGULAR MEETINGS

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### **Mother's meetings**

The agenda in such meetings is

- To announce the names of all those mothers, fathers, and children who were being felicitated for their proactivity this year. Parents who take interest in their children's progress in school and the Trust, who save money for their children and make regular deposits in their bank accounts, who attend meetings regularly, and in general work with us for the common good of the children are usually felicitated.
- To induct the new parents into the Trust. Every year we add 10 new children into the Trust, sometimes these children are siblings of existing sponsored children but at other times they are complete strangers. In such

- cases, the “new” parents are inducted into the workings of the Trust. Usually “old” parents teach the new entrants the workings of the Trust.
- To create a community amongst all the parents.

**Children’s meetings** were held every week to discuss common issues. Every week one class prepared a thought for the day which was then discussed by all the children. All the children are expected to practice this thought in their daily lives at home, school and the center to the best of their abilities. Our latest addition to this weekly feature is to ask the senior children to chair these sessions. This includes starting and closing the meeting besides asking questions of the speakers and the audience. Birthdays of the children were celebrated on the last Saturday of every month. We started a new system where the birthdays of the volunteers were also celebrated with those of the children.

**Volunteer Meetings** where new volunteers were inducted, methods of tutoring were explained to them and success stories shared. Volunteers were felicitated for their untiring efforts to improve the lives of the children in a get together every quarter to build solidarity and team spirit in them.

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#### CHILDRENS HEALTH

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**Ragi Protein Mix** was regularly prepared at the Resource Center for the children with the help of some proactive and experienced mothers of the Trust. The Protein Mix contains all the vitamins and minerals that growing children need and will help build health and stamina. We have noticed that those children who regularly eat this are healthier and have built stamina and immunity against colds and coughs.

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#### INFINEON ANNUAL DAY

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April 20<sup>th</sup> was Infineon Annual Day. Since Infineon sponsors the education of some of our children ACT had been invited to put up some variety entertainment. We put up some dances which were truly breathtaking .

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#### AERO 2007

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On Feb 6<sup>th</sup> all the children were taken to see the Aero Show which is held once in two years. It was a dream come true for us and a thrilling experience for all the children, many of whom now dream of becoming pilots.

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#### NAVADARSHANAM TRIP

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On 26<sup>th</sup> April A visit to an organic farm, Navadarshanam was sponsored by **Walt Disney, India**. It was a day long picnic, the Walt Disney team of volunteers organized many activities to entertain the children. The prize winning painting made by our children was retained by Navadarshanam as a keepsake.

On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September a team building workshop was arranged for all the volunteers at Navadarshanam to build fraternity among our volunteers.

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#### GOLDMAN SACHS CTW

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**Goldman Sachs** organized several activities for the summer holidays in the month of May

15<sup>th</sup> - Visit to a Silk Farm where the children saw the cultivation of silk worms, and production of silk fabric and garments

18<sup>th</sup> - Education Day that included quizzes on various topics, skits and dances by the children and volunteers

22<sup>nd</sup> - Visit to the GPO and Lalbagh

25<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day

31<sup>st</sup> - Visit to Association for People with Disability - this event was our attempt to sensitize our children to the physically challenged and also to create a network with other NGOs. Our children sang and danced at the place but came back feeling humbled by the positive mental attitude of the disabled children they met there. Many of them resolved to be happier in their personal lives.

**Goldman Sachs** donated a Multi Media Community computer, KYAN, a Knowledge vehicle designed by an IIT professor to help the children grasp concepts in a very interactive way.

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#### CELEBRATIONS WITH RADIO STATIONS

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On 24<sup>th</sup> May **92.7 Big FM** sponsored a movie at a cinema hall in the city along with a visit to the Radio station where RJ Bobby's birthday was celebrated with our children. The children enjoyed the hit Kannada movie "**Mungaru Male**" immensely. They were also taken to visit the Music director, Mano Murthy at his residence. The director interacted with our children in a very warm and friendly manner.

On 25<sup>th</sup> December **BIG 92.5 FM** celebrated Christmas with us. A team of RJs, technicians and others came to our center with Santa Claus. The youngest girl helped Santa cut a Christmas cake. The children were given a special treat: a pizza, chocolates and cookies.

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#### S B I 'S VENTURES

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**State Bank of India, MG Road** gifted us a brand new desktop computer. This is our first new computer at the Center. The Branch Manager of MG Road, the PRO, and Mr. Chandroo of the personalized banking section were all present at the function organized at the Resource center for handing over the cheque.

**State Bank of India** launched a program to educate and empower underprivileged girls. They chose our organization as one of their partners in this unique venture. In a function organized exclusively for this 6 girls from the Trust were given cheques for their school fees and other goodies. This education program is the brain child of the chief general manager of this region, Mrs. Mahapara Ali and Mrs. Jyoti Bhat wife of the National Head of SBI. Both of them and the AGM of Region V Mr. Venkatachalapathy graced the occasion.

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#### INTERACTION WITH CLUBS

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On January 21<sup>st</sup> Lioness Council of Dakshata invited us to their annual meet and gifted us with a second hand computer

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> we were invited to the annual Lioness club Meet at United Theological College since we were one of their beneficiaries for the year

ON March 11<sup>th</sup> Lioness Club of Dakshata conducted a Blood Camp to determine the Hemoglobin and Blood Group of the children.

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#### INTERACTION WITH MNC'S AND OTHERS

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On 28<sup>th</sup> April the **Philips NXP team** headed by Mr. Alexius Colletee played games, quizzes etc with the children ending with a grand lunch. **Philips** entered into an agreement to support 30 children at least for 3 forthcoming years

On 12<sup>th</sup> Jan **Cisco** volunteered an afternoon of fun and games.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March an assistant Producer of Documentaries from Hollywood visited our Resource Center and spoke to the children about all the steps involved in producing movies

On 8<sup>th</sup> October the **Overseas Women's Council** invited us to participate in their Mela at the Windsor Manor.

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#### INDEPENDENCE DAY

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15<sup>th</sup> August this year the Independence Day was celebrated in a unique way. We took all our children to another similar NGO for underprivileged children, **Sahasra Deepika** where all our children danced to patriotic songs like Vande Mataram and Bharat Jaan se Pyaara Hai. It was a very memorable experience

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#### INTERACTION WITH COLLEGES

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On april 9<sup>th</sup> at Vishwas 2007, an Inter NGO meet organized jointly by Rotoract Kalyan and Rotoract, St. Joseph's College of Commerce the ACT kids won prizes in all categories: I prizes for solo dance and group dance, II prizes for solo dance and group singing and prizes for drawing and painting as well

On 16<sup>th</sup> april our children were invited to St. Joseph's College of Commerce to dance at their Inter-Collegiate Festival

Post graduate students of XIME (Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship) visited the Center to know about our operations since we were part of their research project.

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#### DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

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On 17<sup>th</sup> November Diwali was celebrated with fire crackers and sweets with the help of many volunteers at the RBANMS grounds. This is an annual feature which we follow in the weekend after Diwali. We bought crackers for the children from Hosur. Some volunteers also contributed. The volunteers helped the children burn the crackers. This year's crackers included showers of gold coins and multi colored rockets. The children had a wonderful time.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> J Ganesh Iyer distributed snacks for his son, Aashutosh's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday  
6<sup>th</sup> Mukherjee of Flora Decors distributed lunch for all the children and volunteers at the resource center  
6<sup>th</sup> Kurunji, LML volunteer distributed sweets for her wedding.  
7<sup>th</sup> Chandrashekar Bandi, (LML volunteer) his mother and brother distributed chocolates and fruits on the occasion of his late father's birthday.  
ITC gifted Sunfeast biscuits and Candyman toffees for the Annual Day  
Monique of Overseas Women's Club distributed sweets  
16<sup>th</sup> Rakhee Jain distributed sweets and stationery items on the occasion of her accepting Religious vows.  
29<sup>th</sup> V.Ramesh distributed sweets on his birthday  
31<sup>st</sup> Nivrita Hamirwasia donated stationery to celebrate her daughter Vibhushree's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

### March

- 4<sup>th</sup> V. Janakiraman distributed sweets to celebrate his grandson Aditya's birthday  
31<sup>st</sup> Hoori Lekhraj distributed burgers and pastries on behalf of her friends  
Surabhi Charitable Trust donated 99 stories to the ACT Library

### April

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nitu Menda of Menda Charitable Trust and her friends distributed chairs to the Resource Center  
Mphasis team donated books to the Resource Center  
6<sup>th</sup> Clare and John Ewing distributed Easter eggs

### June

- 16<sup>th</sup> Shoba Jaidev celebrated her birthday with chaat and paani poori at the center  
30<sup>th</sup> Accenture had a clothes donation drive – ACT was one of its beneficiaries. We received around 15-20 cartons of second hand clothes.

### July

- 12<sup>th</sup> Mr. Mukherjee of Flora Decors provided snacks on his grandson's 6<sup>th</sup> month day

### August

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sangita Reddy sponsored lunch on her birthday for children and volunteers  
21<sup>st</sup> Vasanth sponsored lunch on his birthday

### September

- 9<sup>th</sup> Radhika, lakshmi and vivek sponsored lunch for the children  
11<sup>th</sup> Asha Dayanidhi, architect sponsored a home cooked meal for the children  
15<sup>th</sup> Suhasini of Goldman Sachs sponsored snacks

### **October**

- 7<sup>th</sup> V. Janakiraman sponsored lunch on the occasion of his daughter's birthday  
8<sup>th</sup> V. Ramesh donated sweaters for the children on the occasion of Diwali  
11<sup>th</sup> Tara Ramkumar donated the entire set of Lady Bird Reading Books for our library. We have started a reading program for junior children with these.

### **November**

- 14<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of **Children's Day** our volunteer Madhulika Dhindaw and her sister donated rice and dhal to the children.  
17<sup>th</sup> Chandrashekar Bandi, our volunteer sponsored lunch in his father's memory.

### **December**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Shraavani Ramkumar distributed blankets to the children for her birthday.  
23<sup>rd</sup> J.Ganesh Iyer distributed snacks on the occasion of his son, Ashutosh's birthday

### **Welcoming new volunteers**

Madhulika Dhindaw who choreographs and teaches dance to all 80 children  
Sharmila Rao teaches drama and uses theatre to improve the children's confidence and presentation skills  
Kavita Panda who gives personality building classes and builds interviewing skills for the senior girls  
Preeti Rai and Meera our new art teacher .