

News @Anand

The Voice of Anand Charity

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Editor's Note

India has been in the lime light for the past few months - thanks to the Common Wealth Games. Despite criticism about the arrangements and organization, we put up a beautiful show. Many of our sportsmen proved their mantle winning medals for the first time in gymnastics and swimming. This goes to show that we have the capability to perform and excel despite not having the best sports equipments and backing. That with little effort, we can win.

That is what students at Project WHY and Uddharana have been proving. Hundreds of children are picking up English with fluency at Project WHY, while children are looking forward to a better future through education at Uddharana. Read on to also know about the girl students who have won the Anand Charity scholarships at Nanubhai.

An English teacher from Project WHY tells how she helped children overcome the fear of learning a new language. Once more, students have Umang have displayed their wonderful talents on Independence day and Gandhi Jayanthi.

We thank our donors and volunteers once again for their support. As we are getting ready to celebrate Diwali and Christmas in the near future, I sincerely hope that you can help us brighten up many more lives around India through your support and donations.

Wishing you all a warm Diwali and Merry Christmas!

- Mrinalini Vidhyadharan

Strengthening Futures through Education

Last year, Anand Charity collaborated with Human Action for Rural Development (HARD) through Project Uddharana to fund the education of four students in Andhra Pradesh. The students who belong to the Dommara community near Hyderabad are children of sex workers. We strongly believe that with good education, these children need not fall prey to the profession that has caused severe harm to the community. It is estimated that each worker in this community infects 600 other community members with AIDS.

Through Project Uddharana, a total of 13 children were identified by Mr. Maruthi and his friends who have done phenomenal work in kickstarting this project despite resistance from the local community. The four students Anand Charity funds, have decided to continue their education this year. Given the success of the program, Anand Charity would like to fund another student's education this year (a girl child in the 7th standard). The project will cost Anand Charity a total of Rs. 1,00,000 which will be released in a single installment. Though Anand Charity would like to post pictures from the project, we would not like to reveal the identity of these children to prevent discrimination in their schools. If donors are interested in donating for this cause and require further details, please write to us at <http://anandcharity.org/content/contact-us>.

- Anil Kumar Goteti

Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanthi at Umang



Two hundred students of Umang were joined by students and volunteers from several other schools and colleges from Jaipur to celebrate India's independence day in August. The program included a heartfelt rendition of "Hum honge kamyab" symbolizing what Umang stands for. All the students made flags and also painted flags on their face.

In October, on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, students of Umang spread the message of non-violence and peace. Dressed as Gandhiji, Umang student Azad told all the children not to fight while his three monkeys said 'Hear no evil', 'See no evil' and 'Speak no evil'. The whole group got a roaring welcome as they went from one class to the other.

Events like this serve as a reminder that the students at Umang are just like any other kids who want to live a normal life and be a meaningful part of society. Through Anand Charity, donors like you are instrumental in giving them a shot at living their dream.

- Karthikeya Murari

Announcing scholarship recipients at Nanubhai

We are excited to announce the first two recipients of the awards for the girls scholarship initiative that Anand Charity is funding in partnership with the Nanubhai Educational Foundation. Ms. Mohini Mahida and Ms.

Urvashi Chaudhari are both pursuing higher education at colleges after passing the HSC (class XII) examination. This scholarship will support college education for both the girls including their tuition, books, and any lab fees applicable to their curriculum. Over the upcoming weeks, we will update our website with profiles and interviews of the scholarship recipients.

Thanks to all our donors for helping us support women's education in rural India !

- Karthik Raghupathy

Project WHY moves in the right direction

'The focus on quality' programme has been running since April 2010 in two centres of Project Why. The programme is running as scheduled and moving in the right direction. The children are slowly recognizing English as a spoken language and communication tool rather than just a school subject. With support from Anand Charity, this new programme will give the children a head start for the years to come.

STUDENTS BENEFITTING FROM THE PROGRAM

Madanpur Khader Centre

117 students

Boys: 56; Girls: 61

Okhla Centre

125 students

Boys: 68; Girls: 57

Focus on English:

Teachers are seeing a noticeable difference in the confidence and abilities of the children in using English. To help children overcome their fear of the language, simple concepts were introduced initially like answering simple questions in English. As part of their general knowledge classes, children are being taught the value of caring for their environment.

Focus on General Knowledge:

The centre is actively involved in creating awareness about the environment in terms of waste recycling, conservation of water, planting trees etc. They are also taught about renewable sources of energy. The Khader centre has 2 solar panels!

A small kitchen garden has been cultivated in the centre. It provides the opportunity for the children to gain knowledge about plants and vegetables. In order to conserve water, grey water from the kitchen is used to water plants. The children are also encouraged to keep their surroundings clean.

A painting competition on the theme of Snow White was held in September. The best paintings will be sent to UK and used as posters for a pantomime show this Christmas. Teachers are planning on taking different classes to the zoo and the local science museum.

-Hemanth Sampath

“There is remarkable progress in their response”

Ms.Smita, an English Teacher, who works with children supported by Project WHY gives us a first hand report of her experiences with children and how enthusiastically they have picked up the language.

“ When I joined project why I realised that the children were very scared of English, so my first challenge was to make them interested in the language. I began with simple concepts like in/out, hot/cold and used simple instructions like ‘please sit down,’ ‘come here’, ‘read it’ etc with actions. To interest them I made charts with colourful pictures and words/concepts so that it was easy for them to associate with the word. They hesitantly started reading the chart and slowly began enjoying a

Every day I started asking about themselves and their family, encouraging them when they attempted to answer. General Information about animals and their babies, homes and sounds were taught so that they could speak about animals. The children were also encouraged to describe people and things in simple sentences. To increase their vocabulary and help them read and spell, phonetics is being used. There is a remarkable progress in their response. We revise what we have done once a week.

I also use interactive CDs so children can listen and learn the correct pronunciation and usage of words. We have rhyme sessions, which the children enjoy. They sing and do action rhymes that give a little fluency to their speaking. I regularly tell them or read them stories. To make them interesting I modulate my voice, make faces and also use finger and stick puppets. The children are encouraged to recall the stories with help.

To build up their confidence in public speaking I am planning to make them enact short stories and perform in front of others. Presently we are working on a short skit that shows the importance of a clean and green environment. Children are doing this very enthusiastically.

A lot of activities to encourage and enhance their speaking skills are being planned for the coming months”.

Thank You for your generous contributions

Our donors have helped us raise over \$1,500 in the third quarter of 2010 - your generous contributions help us undertake and complete our projects. Our sincere appreciation for this quarter's donors:

Mr. Kashif Hassan

Ms. Maithili Koli

Ms. Soma Mandal

Mr. Krishna Murki

Mr. Sriraam Natarajan

Mr. Antonio Trapsokis

and 14 anonymous donors

If you would like to make a difference in the life of a deserving person in India, please visit our donations page at <https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=20020>.

- Karthik Raghupathy