

The Doon Promise

News letter from the Aasraa Trust



Haven! In response to the immediate need to withdraw 22 children from the government school we are sponsoring, Aasraa trust has set up it's HAVEN. These children have decided to study further and harder; it is amazing the drive, dedication and maturity they have shown. Most are children in classes 9-11, staying in education beyond the limits of RTE in Guru Nanak and St. Agnes; few who exhibited the focus and drive to apply themselves to working hard and earning day boarding sponsorships in Olympus High. In a week we found a house to rent, furnished and staffed it, and moved the children in... It is our boldest move so far. The children love it. They have settled in and are thriving. They have clean clothes, good food, proper tutorials, transport to school and space to flourish.

Street Smart



Waste warriors were asked by the British High Commission to host one of their educational Children's workshops at the Doon School during the visit of Her Royal Highness, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. They invited 65 children from Aasraa. The children participated in various activities to do with waste management and recycling. Her Royal Highness interacted wonderfully with the children and at the end was presented with a purse made from a Tetra Pak juice carton and a bouquet of flowers made from egg trays by Deepak, an abandoned deaf child who is now part of the Aasraa Family.

News Bulletin

- Shyam, Raju & Santosh, our three physically challenged trainees attended the Abilympics at Amar Jyoti in Delhi.
- 51 children of wings program have witnessed the Indian Military Academy, Passing Out Parade final rehearsal on 12th December.

All of our work is funded due to the grace and kindness of our donors. We are currently working with over 500 slum and street children; there are so many more children we can reach. Thank you for your continued love and support for the children.

Anti Child Begging Campaign



Don't give money, give education

Aasraa Trust and Childline have combined forces with the Dehradun District Administration to launch an anti begging campaign focusing on child beggars.

These children are being forced to beg in the city centre of Dehradun by their families. They are brought into town by their mothers and aunts who constantly monitor them to ensure they are actively begging.

The condition of these children is terrible. They are underfed, dirty and denied medical treatment, often suffering from exposure to the elements. If they do not 'make' enough money they are beaten; lacking in education and skills training, they have a bleak future fit only for begging and drug taking as a means of escaping the reality of their lives.

The focus of this campaign has two goals; to raise awareness with the public that giving money to children begging on the streets encourages them and therefore their continued abuse; and to create a centre of learning for these children focusing on basic literacy and vocational training. The campaign launches on the 6th of January 2014. Please wish us luck in this endeavour and help us stop this abuse.

Navdhanya Visit

Our children, along with staff members visited the Navdanya Farm. The trip was organized with the help of our volunteer, Natasha, a teacher from Austin, Texas, who has been working with us for a month now. It was an educative and enjoyable field trip for our children. Navdanya is an Indian-based non-governmental organization which promotes biodiversity conservation, biodiversity, organic farming, the rights of farmers, and the process of seed saving.



Wings of Doon

St. Agnes Field Trip to Nepal

9 of our boys in class IX and X who are sponsored at St Agnes went on a ten day trip to Nepal, Bodhgaya and Agra. The exposure for the boys was amazing and they had a fabulous trip. None of these boys had ever been out of the state of Uttarakhand before.

To see a picture of the Taj Mahal in a text book, versus touching the beautiful monument with their own hands, brought alive the concept of learning as never before.

In Khatmandu, as they gazed on Everest, they recalled the week before meeting the twins Nungshi and Tashi who climbed Everest last year, the youngest climbers to ever do so!

Thanks to our many wonderful donors for keeping our children warm this winter.

**AASRAA Trust has two major programs "Street Smart" and "Wing of Doon".
AASRAA Trust is registered under income tax act 12AA, 80G & FCRA.**