STUDENTS APPEAR FOR NIOS
We were delighted when the National Institute of Open Schooling certified us as an examination center for its Open Basic Education program. Our first batch of students appeared for their board examination in March! We aim to use NIOS as the stepping-stone into formal education for children who have a comparatively low level of education according to their age group. For the others who directly join our Vocational Training Program we provide NIOS as a means for them to achieve high school graduation alongside earning a dignified livelihood. We are extremely proud of our kids who have worked hard to create scholars within themselves.

DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN
On 12th April we celebrated International Day for Street Children. Children from our projects performed poems, songs, and danced their socks off at our event in Gandhi Park, Dehradun. It was a fun filled day for all of us. Most importantly it gave our children a platform to be recognized as equal members of society. ‘Consortium for Street Children’ is currently seeking support for International Day for Street Children to be adopted by the United Nations.

WELHAM BOYS’ SCHOOL
Aasraa has collaborated with the Welham Boys’ School to start a new program to provide afterschool remedial classes and activities that will be taken by the WBS students with the assistance of Aasraa and WBS Staff. We have selected children from 2 different target groups. Firstly, children from the Chunabhatta slum area, the majority of who have little to no educational background and a desperate lack of daily supervision, leaving them extremely vulnerable. The second are children from 3 local government schools in the Surajbasti area, where the standard of education is terribly low, a large percentage of these children are young girls. We aspire to expose the students of WBS to the reality of the world around them, to guide them to become sensitive human beings and view society from a different perspective.

RAJA AND HIS ‘SEEING EYE’, AKHILESH
Raja, 12 years old, and his little brother Akhilesh, 8 years old, have been with us for over 3 years. When they first arrived they were spending most of their days begging in and around Dehradun, little Akhilesh guiding Raja acting as his ‘seeing eye’. It is a well-known fact that if a child has a disability their begging income increases dramatically and sadly such children are exploited as a result. We trained a volunteer to start teaching Raja the basics of braille, at the same time this gave Akhilesh a break from his responsibilities to Raja and freedom to learn and play. We desperately searched the city to find a school suitable for both children, eventually we came across ‘Sharp Memorial School for the Blind’, not only does Raja now attend regular school but also his little brother Akhilesh, as they have facility for teaching the ‘seeing eye’s’ too. Aasraa covers their school fees/expenses, transport and medical needs. We are delighted with their tremendous progress!!

All of our work is funded due to the grace and kindness of our donors. We are currently working with over 700 slum, street & underprivileged children; with so many more children to be reached.
Thank you for your continued love and support

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