

## The Doon Promise

News letter from the Aasraa Trust



### International Day for Street Children

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 250 of our street children congregated at Gandhi Park to join the global petition made to the United Nations to declare the day as the International Day for Street Children. Having a day dedicated to street children, would amplify their voices, would provide them a platform to speak about issues that affect them and declare to the world that they too exist!!

In line with this, a play titled "Hum Bhi Hain" was enacted by our children with their customary chutzpah, through which they entreated people not to dismiss them as nameless, faceless entities, but to acknowledge their existence and hear their voice.

The recitation of Safdar Hashmi's poem "Kitabein" emphasized the advantages of an education; the program ended on a happy, positive note with the entire audience joining the children in an impromptu dance to the beats of 'Jai Ho'.

We are thankful to our event sponsors Plan India & SBMA, District Administration and all our friends who joined us to lend their support, to the school children of St. Joseph's

Academy, Olympus High, Jaswant Modern & Partrician College who turned up in large number to encourage our children.

### Street Smart

#### Aasraa - an NIOS Accredited Study/Exam Centre

We are the 1<sup>st</sup> organization working with street children to be accredited to the National Institute of Open Schooling for its Open Basic Education (OBE) program. This allows children over the age of 6, but with no upper age limit, to sit for the Class III, Class V and Class VIII exam. Children, who pass the NIOS exam, can then be admitted into age appropriate classes in mainstream schools.

We have also been invited to sit on the Regional Advisory Board of NIOS!

#### Street Children to get 'Aadhaar' Cards

Mr. Ajay Setiya, Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, announced all street children would be given 'Aadhaar' Cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India.

Mr. Setiya made the announcement while attending the Aasraa Trust celebration on April 12 to mark the International Day for Street Children.

This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> time street children are given an identity which will help them to obtain birth certificates, open bank accounts and actually exist on Government records!

#### Anti Begging Campaign

The anti child begging campaign launched in January is progressing well. Daily 40 - 50 children spend 3 hours with us studying, playing or learning a vocation. Older beggars with their offspring are also encouraged to take advantage of the adult literacy and sewing classes made available to them. Some keen learners like Kishen & Sikander come on their own and do self study before class starts! And of course, the children relish the banana given as they walk in and the hot lunch; probably the only hot meal they have in the day!



Some day, soon, we will not see any illiterate child on the streets of Doon.



#### Mainstreamed students of Aasraa outshine in academics

We have mainstreamed 55 eager, enthusiastic learners this academic session - 35 enrolled into St. Agnes, 17 to Sneha, 1 in Olympus, 1 SGRR and Rajni into college!

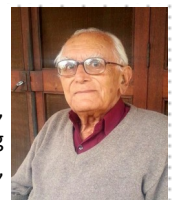
An earnest child, Gautam, has done exceptionally well and scored an 81% in his annual examination; Shilpi secured A Grade in Math; all others have fared well and been promoted.



A combination of close monitoring, after school tutorials, hard work by the children and support from all the schools has helped achieve this academic feat by children who till a year ago spent their 10 waking hours on the streets!

#### Aasraa Trust condoles death of Baikin Iyer

Baikin Iyer, surrogate father, patron, passed away on 13th March, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, dignity, compassion, precision and a caring, generous heart. He was our sounding board for new ideas, channelizing our thinking, supportive and encouraging always. We miss him dearly!



### News Bulletin

- Our children participated in the 7th Foundation Day celebration of NCPCR on 5th March in Delhi.
- Sakya Hospital conducted a medical check up and gave us de-worming tablets and multi vitamins.
- Our first street child, Raj Kumar got married! We wish him a happy married life.
- Vasudev Kutumb Trust has very kindly come on board to impart 'Value Education'.

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.



STREET is not 4 CHILDREN



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