

BAL SHRISTI



OUR LITTLE STARS

Seven year old Parveen's father is a labourer and her mother does housework. Since she was in charge of her baby brother and sister, she was not enrolled in school.

With MMC's support she passed the municipal school entrance exam in May, and now comes to the centre every evening to pick up her siblings after she's back from school.

Eight year old Dhiraj from Uttar Pradesh only spoke Bhojpuri and had never been to school when he first came to our centre. He is very quick and this May he was able to enroll directly into the 2nd standard at his local municipal school.

Parveen and Dhiraj are just two of the nearly four hundred children who were supported over the course of the last year to enter the mainstream education system.

It's been a very busy six months for the Curriculum Development team at MMC. Spurred on by the ambitious goal to revamp the education program at all levels, our senior staff have been working hard to build a robust curriculum and make learning more fun, interesting and informative. They have introduced new timetables to build more variety and flexibility into the programme, created new, exciting teaching aids, developed subject related worksheets at the pre-school and primary level for teachers to review each child's progress and introduced evaluation and assessment forms at all levels to study the impact of the programs. They have also initiated a year-long project to introduce levels for math, science and environmental science up to the fourth standard. As new children join the centres at the primary level, they will be tested for their abilities in each subject and will be introduced to a level they are comfortable with. This concept is particularly useful in our context given that children enter our centres through the year.

The group has also introduced 'Read to Me' or "Mujhe Padhkar Sunao" for our young ones in the crèche. Similar to the 'Drop Everything and Read' time which we had introduced

for the primary age group, in this programme parents are encouraged to read aloud to their children at the centre for ten minutes every week or whenever they have the time.

Those parents who cannot read are told to picture read. We hope this initiative



An animated "read to me" session

will familiarize the child with reading and inculcate the habit of reading at an early age. Programmatic strengthening is the theme for this year – as our newsletter reveals. Whether it is in education or administration, we hope to emerge more efficient, more focused and better able to measure our impact.

**BECOMING
MORE EFFICIENT**

To keep pace with technological advancements, we are in the process of automating a lot of our administrative and financial processes. The idea is to be more efficient as well as to capture data more effectively for better monitoring and analysis. Thanks to EdelGive foundation and TCS, we now have a dedicated team of volunteers helping build these systems.

MORE BOOKS TO GO AROUND In our effort to strengthen our curriculum we have partnered with BCPT (Bombay Community Public Trust), a city based community foundation. Their grant has helped us strengthen our reading program. We now have over 200 books in each centre and are planning to expand this collection every year.



NEWSBYTE:

- We were thrilled to be among the six finalists shortlisted by the Stars Foundation for their Impact awards. Stars Foundation is a UK based charity, funding organisations in Africa and Asia that have achieved excellence in providing services to disadvantaged children. We were shortlisted from over 172 organisations across 7 countries in Asia that applied.
- Mumbai Mobile Crèches featured on CNBC TV 18 in their popular weekend show “Young Turks”. MMC was showcased as an organisation making a difference to lives of migrant construction workers and children. Our Chief Executive, Devika Mahadevan was interviewed on the show, where she shared the organisation’s philosophy and the road ahead for us. You could view the video at www.youtube.com/user/mumbaimobilecreches
- MMC has recently developed two special tools to spread awareness about our work – both of which can be viewed on our website. One is a song titled ‘Sapney’ or dreams. Written and sung by professionals, the song expresses the hopes, aspirations and desires of all young children living on construction sites. The other tool is a puppet show on MMC. Visit <http://mumbaimobilecreches.org/sapne-MMC.mp3> and do check these out!
- Ganesh chaturthi was celebrated in full pomp and splendor at our Neptune centre in Bhandup for the 2nd consecutive year. Mr. Nawab Malik, Labour minister and Mr. Sachin Deshmukh of the Neptune group were the chief guests for event. The event was well attended by 560 children from 19 centers. Full of song, dance and delicious eats, this was a memorable event. We want to sincerely thank the Neptune group for organizing this event for our children. It’s a day they look forward to now!



We are proud of eight year old Ashwini Ujgare who has received a cash reward from TMC (Thane Municipal Corporation) for her outstanding performance in class II of the municipal school she attends. Ashwini scored top marks in her class and had not missed a single day of school the entire year. She attends our non formal sessions at the Lodha centre.

WOMEN FROM THE SITE TAKING CHARGE

‘Sakhi’ our women’s federation - The women’s federation we formed in March this year has blossomed well. About thirty women from the community who are also teaching at our centres meet once a month to discuss various topics including the opening of bank accounts for the community, the concept of insurance and financial instruments for women to save money. The women have also shared their experiences of visits to other NGOs. The agenda is driven by the group itself who choose the various topics for discussion, and keep minutes. Industry experts are also invited to speak on various topics of relevance. Using their collective strength we aim to make these women feel empowered – as they have access to information as well as support.

Building leaders in the community - The centre for leadership (CFL) has awarded Anisha Mulani, one of our Balwadi teachers a yearlong fellowship. This centre is a joint venture between UK based Leader’s Quest and Mumbai NGO CORO and aims to identify and build the capacities of grassroots leaders. Anisha is among one hundred leaders selected from across Maharashtra and her research will focus on financial inclusion of migrant workers.



500 teachers and 160 children were trained in puppet making It is very touching to see such a confluence of two worlds, so diverse yet bound by a common thread - childhood!



A TRUE ACHIEVER 38 year old Rajkumari has never been just another woman living on a construction site. Unlike most women on sites, she is a graduate from Mumbai University. Her husband is a watchman and his ill health made it difficult for him to get a better job and for her to be able to work outside the home. However when MMC set up a centre on the site where she lived and offered women training in the crèche and balwadi programmes, she promptly applied and a year later was working at one of our centres, caring and educating children whose mothers were away working on construction sites. Given her background and infectious enthusiasm, she was the obvious choice when ‘Ummeed’, an NGO focusing on children with mental developmental disabilities offered a six month intensive training fellowship. Having completed this fellowship, she is now going to hold regular trainings for our teachers to mainstream her learning into the MMC program. She will also spend a few days every month supporting specific children and counseling their families. For us, Rajkumari is a true achiever, having broken the vicious cycle that bound two generations of her family and is an independent woman today!

MMC IN NUMBERS 6 new centers in the last 6 months and 265 new children joined through these centres. 1250 children (on an average) attended our centres every month in the last 6 months. 14 new constructions surveyed and 706 children found in those sites. 21 new trainees joined our training program this year and 28 completed their teacher training course .

A big thank you to everyone at St. Nicholas school, London, for holding a fund raising event called 'India Day' and raising funds for MMC by selling paintings drawn by our children. We owe a special Thanks to Ms. Sarah Mullen for making this possible.



THANK YOU ONE, THANK YOU ALL !

THE LAST SIX MONTHS HAS SEEN ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FROM BOTH CORPORATES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR OUR WORK.

- We would like to thank Credit Suisse, EdelGive Foundation, The British Asian Trust and The Anglo American Charitable Foundation for their generous support to our programme.
- Convergys and their client Optus donated generously in kind to our Patlipada centre. They also held fun fairs for our children where they enjoyed with dance and music and took them out on outings
- Syntel organized many visits to their office for our children and conducted yoga sessions, played quizzes and games, showed education movies.
- We want to thank Prithvi Theatre for organizing puppet, drawing and clay work workshops for our children
- HSBC took our children on a day trip to their Malad office; and made teaching aids for our children. We also want to thank them

for the monetary support they offered to our programme.

- Magic Bus organized a day trip for our children to Tungreshwar. The children were absolutely thrilled to see the waterfalls.
- ACC conducted health camps at our centres. They also distributed toothpaste, brushes and towels to the children.
- Mumbai Connexions for teaching English at our Agripada centre for over six months now.
- Colgate conducted dental camps at 2 of our centres and gave out sample toothbrushes and toothpastes to over 200 children.
- A big thank you to Citigroup, DBS, Deewan Housing Finance Corporation, HSBC Bank, Macquarie Securities, Micro Housing Finance Corporation and Nomura, for choosing to run Mumbai Marathon 2010 for our cause.
- We also want to thank all the individuals choosing to run for us in the Marathon.

AN APPEAL FOR MATERIALS AND VOLUNTEERS We require the following materials for our centres: 1. Old, second hand laptops for use in our centres. 2. Old colourful magazines and newspapers. 3. Workstations. 4. Cupboards for use in our centres.

We are in the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to help us with the Mumbai Marathon in January and our annual camp in December. If you are interested in offering a helping hand, write to us at contact@mumbaimobilecreche.org