



When we survey a site, most children (like this ten year old girl above) are not in school because they have to look after their siblings. Thanks to our centre, she can now enrol.



What does Mumbai Mobile Creches do?

Since 1972, we have promoted child-friendly construction sites. We set up centres on a construction site which provide:

- a. Holistic Development and Education** – with children divided into three age groups and supported through the crèche, balwadi and non formal schooling programme.
- b. Health, Hygiene and Nutrition** – all children attending the centres are given supplementary meals and receive curative, preventive and rehabilitative care.
- c. Community Outreach** – the community is the central focus for creating awareness and sustainability of the intervention, whether it is regarding health, education or any other relevant social issue, so we work closely with them.

We also run two **training programmes** on effective child care and **network and advocate** with the construction industry, government and other organizations to support child friendly sites.

Reaching more children and builders. Last year, we reached 4800 children. However, there are 80,000 children living on construction sites in our city, no other NGO focused on their rights. By the end of this year, we hope to reach 6000.

Mobile Creches Mumbai has recently become a new legal entity – Mumbai Mobile Creches. It was exciting to reflect on what we have accomplished in the last 35 years and where we want to go from here. Our entire team of 100 people was involved in this re-envisioning exercise.

What emerged was a renewal of our commitment to the child on the site. So much remains to be done to see that every site in the city and country is “child-friendly.” So we start our new journey with a new logo and statement -- “Futures Under Construction” – a new newsletter that shares our programmes. Our work will be expanded to move from providing child care services, to training many more people, especially women on site to run these centres themselves. The new growth and construction explosion in our country, coupled with increasing values of Corporate Social Responsibility, and an emerging need to meet international standards, will surely benefit the child on the site. We invite you to join us in this journey.

Mumbai Mobile Creches team

Since April, two new builders have been sensitised and motivated to have child-friendly construction sites – **Raheja Acropolis** has opened centre in Deonar for 55 children and **Neelkanth Kingdom** has a centre in Vidhyavihar with 50 children. Special thanks to Paru Patel from Neelkanth who personally took a lot of interest in building the centre! A long-time supporter of child friendly sites, **Kalpataru Builders** also opened a centre for 80 children in Ghatkopar. We are also working on securing five new centres by the end of this year and reaching another 250 children.



At this centre the theme of the month is fish. The centre is decorated, they visit an aquarium, and language, maths, science and general knowledge are all taught using fish!

Highlights (April – September 07)

- ☉ All 250 children from our centres passed their municipal school entrance exams. We are very proud of them!
- ☉ The 'Bal Sabha' programme to build leadership networks for our older children was initiated. Six centres and nearly 300 children were involved. For example, 5 children from Chandivali centre did a small session on Warli painting at HCC centre, and 12 children from Evershine centre presented some karate and yoga exercises at O-zone centre. These programs gave the children an opportunity to meet children from other sites, display their abilities and build their confidence and leadership skills.
- ☉ 338 children saw a film "Dolphins" at the Imax theatre in Wadala and had a wonderful time.
- ☉ Conservation Action Trust conducted sessions on Environmental Conservation for 300 primary children at 11 of our centres, and NGO Arpan conducted trainings for our staff to identify children suffering from sexual abuse.
- ☉ We launched our first community training programme and have a batch of 20 women entrepreneurs from different construction sites across the city! They will learn how to run our centres and be supported to negotiate with their contractors to let them open centers when they move to another site. We wish them good luck!
- ☉ We have started working closely with NGO, Nirman, which promotes rights of construction workers. We have invited them to work with us at three centres to explore how our programmes can be mutually reinforcing. We are also preparing a plan on how we can work on a joint advocacy agenda, to lead surveys, make joint representations to the government to adopt the Construction Workers Act, and build information and awareness about children and communities on construction sites.
- ☉ Our children participated in the 'Right to Education' campaign organized by NGO Aveshi Abacus where they lit candles and took part in a peaceful march for their rights.
- ☉ We joined the Bal Swasth Abhiyan to represent the child on the site and work with the ICDS programme of the government meant for children under 6, pregnant women and adolescent girls, to ensure it reaches construction sites.



STAR TV featured 30 of our children on 'Voice of India'. Above, some demonstrate their own moves!

- ☉ Over 400 women from different communities were introduced to the government's Integrated Child Development Services. Many leaders visited government health posts to learn about what services they could access, and also invited health workers to present their services to the rest of the community. This has become a critical and regular feature in our work to ensure that communities on construction sites to know about their rights.
- ☉ We are partnering with Sesame Workshop, India, and using the innovative teaching materials they have developed to support balwadi children. Sesame Workshop also donated three TVs and DVDs which has enabled us to use interactive CDs for teaching various concepts at our centres.

Straight from the heart

"I have a four year old son. He loves playing. Unfortunately, our house is just next to the area where the iron reinforcement bars are stored. He used to constantly get injured, so I was forced to lock him up inside the house. What could I do? After a while, he developed anxiety attacks and started having fits. But I couldn't let him out. When the centre opened, I was so relieved. He had a place to play! He loves going there and his fits have stopped because he has friends and teachers and can run around and enjoy himself as a little boy should." Sumiti, a mother on the Godrej Construction site.

Visit our new website
www.mumbaimobilecreches.org

Introducing two of our stars!

When one year old Smita Jogdande first came to our Hiranandani centre, she was so weak and malnourished that the other mothers at the centre used to tell the teachers not to let their kids sit with her. They wanted her kept apart. Of course, our teacher did just the opposite. What she needed was love, attention and much more interaction. First, she was shown to the doctor and put on a special high calorie diet and given daily vitamin supplements. And she was showered with love and encouragement. Slowly, she got over her fear of other children and began to become much more confident and independent. Her weight increased, and she began to take part in group activities, play with toys, clap during songs and drink her milk. Her family is thrilled with her progress, and even all the other mothers in the centre are happy to see her playing with their children.

When four year old Sonali Narkar (below with her mother) joined our centre at Godrej constructions, she was very unhappy. Developmentally slow, she could not speak and was not toilet trained. Initially, our teachers put her in the creche because she enjoyed playing alone with toys. She would refuse to eat lunch or participate in any activities. Gradually, however, she gained confidence and began to enjoy coming to the centre. Over the course of six months, she started taking part in the balwadi programme. Now she comes everyday, insists on having her own slate and is constantly showing her friends and teachers the drawings she has created. She is now toilet trained, speaks slowly and one day proudly brought her family photo album to show everyone. Her parents keep telling our teachers that they can't believe how she has changed. We are all extremely proud of her.



Very often when children are developmentally different, they are treated as if they cannot understand or learn anything. This is an enormous disservice to the child. At our centres we believe in inclusive education and the importance of supporting every child to realise her potential to the fullest. We thank Ummeed, an NGO that works with special children for training our teachers.

Friends of Mumbai Mobile Creches

We thank the following people who have given us generous donations from April to September 07:

Individuals

Abha Sharma, Abhiraj Choksey, Agnes Franklin, Amit Goel, Amit Sinha, Anirudha Singh, Anita Kalwani, Archana Sharma, Arti Nagraj, Asha Chakraborty, Ashana Singh, Ashish Karamchandani, Atul More, Aweek Mazumdar, Basanti Didwania, Bina and Sunil Shah, Burkhard Weheritz, CS Gulvady, Claudia Mauntz, Cyrus Austin, Davina Bali, Devika Mahadevan, Gaurika Chandhok, Jagjit Singh, Jurgen Frohlich, Ketan Shetty, Lotte Lendle, Mahasukhlal Kothari, Mahendra Pai, Margaret Mehta, Michael Jack, N.V. Iyer, Nageeb Ali, Narasimhan NS, Nayna Mehta, Neerja Takkar, Nicola Selby, Nita Ahluwalia, Kamna Seth, Pankaj Agarwal, Parul Choksey, Dr. Paul, PK Suraj, Pragna, Pramila Bhatia, Rebecca Elias, Rebecca Khan, Rishad Premji, Rk Nair, Roos Dhanjibhoy, Rumana Hamid, Rupesh Thakkar, S. Suryavanshi, Sanjay Suri, Satyendranath Bhatt, Sejal Dhorajia, Shamin Sinnar, Sheila Botwala, Smita Khanapurkar, Sushila Pahlajani, Tarana Advani, Tim Challis, Trilochan Sahney, Usha Bhatia, Usha Omprakash, Usha Pandit, Veena Singrani, Vidhi Udani, Vikram Shingrani, Vipul Muni, Vir Advani, Vishal Mehta, Volker Schmidt, Walter Lendle.

Corporates and Organisations: Thanks to the following corporates and Dream Teamers who ran for us in the Mumbai Marathon!

AFL, Citigroup, HDFC Corporation, HDFC Bank, JK Cement, Johnson Controls Pvt. Ltd, Lodha Group, Macquarie Securities, Tata Sons, Tata Teleservices, Taj group of hotels. Mr. Niranjana Hiranandani was on the Dream team of the marathon for us.

Thanks to the following corporates and organisations for supporting our cause.

Amrita Trust, Bhaichand Mehta Foundation, Concern India Foundation, Danna Software Services, Edelweiss Capital Ltd, Five Star Shipping Co., HDFC Bank, HSBC Bank, Infobricks Technology, Interstil Semiconductor, Lehman Brothers, Naath Industries, R. Mehta and Bros., Ram Batra Memorial Foundation, Rotary club of Powai, Rotary Club of Thane, Senior Citizens group at Raheja Vihar, Senior Citizens group at Bhakti Park, Seth Pestonji Davar Charitable Trust, Sunglory Housing Society, Swami Vivekanand Junior College, TCS.

Where we work. Our centres are open Monday through Saturdays from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Here's a list:

Sr	CENTER ADDRESS	Telephone	Sr.	CENTER ADDRESS	Telephone
1	H.C.C. , Hiranandani Gardens, Next to BMC Health Post, opp. Solitaire building, Powai.	9867526822	13	Kohinoor City , Premier Auto Co. Compound, Kurla Rd, Off LBS Marg.	9867526816
2	Raheja Vihar , Opp. <u>Chandivali</u> Studio, Farm Road, Next to Bombay Scottish School, Chandivali.	9867526819	14	Planet Godrej , 30, Keshavrao Khade Marg, Byculla (W), Mumbai.	9867526826
3	Hiranandani Estate , <u>Patlipada</u> , Ghodbunder Road, Thane.	9967006838	15	Behrambaug Evershine Cosmic, Near Abdullah School, Next to Dheeraj Gaurav, Jogeshwari (W).	9867526831
4	Bhakti Park , Wadala Midtown, Sion-Wadala Link Rd., Next to Imax Theatre, Wadala.	9867526817	16	Neptune Living Point, L.B.S. Marg, Near Mangatram Petroleum, Bhandup.	9967006836
6	Kalpataru Gardens , Neo Pharma , Military Camp, Opp. Kamgar Hospital, Kandivali (E).	9867526827	17	Neelkanth Kingdom , Nathani Road, Opp. Vidyavihar Station (West), Behind Vidyavihar Bus Depot.	9867526820
7	Tarangan , Kalpataru Constructions, Near Cadbury Compound, Thane (W)	9867526829	18	Raheja Acropolis , near Dattaguru Society, Opp. Telecom Factory, Punjab Wadi, Govandi-West Deonar.	9867526821
8	Kalpataru Estate , Near Majaswadi Bus Depot, Opp. Fantasy Land, Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Rd, Andheri (East).	9867526824	19	Kalpataru Aura LBS MArg, next o Shreyas Talkies, Ghatkopar W.	9867526823
9	Versova , B.G.Shirke Constructions, Near Swami Samarth Circle, Behind Indralok Soc. 'C' Wing, Lokhandwala, Andheri (West).	9867526830	20	Room No. 481, Darga Rd., Khindipada, Bhandup Complex, Mulund (W).	9867526818
10	Rustomjee's O-Zone , Behind Goregaon Telephone Exchange, Off S.V.Rd., Goregaon (W).	9867526825	21	Room No. 49, Korba Mithaghar, Ramamata C.H.S., Wadala (E).	C/o 24159261
11	Mayfair Virar Garden , Kharodi Naka, Virar - Agashi Rd., Virar W		22	BPCL, Mahul , Near Servants' Quarters, Mahul, Mumbai.	
12	Lodha Paradise , On Eastern Express Highway, Next to Majiwade Flyover, Opp. Vrindavan Society, Thane (W)	9867526828	23	BPCL, Karjat , Bhaktachi Wadi.	



Lunch time!