



## Spreading our wings

The last six months have seen a great deal of continued growth and development here at Mumbai Mobile Creches (MMC). We continue to focus on institutional strengthening measures to improve the efficiency of our administration and the overall quality of the services we provide. We are also enhancing our literacy programme through the Read to Grow Initiative that aims to bring more books to our centres and inspire communities to read. This programme endeavours to take learning beyond the classroom, into the homes and daily lives of the communities we reach. We also aim to increase the number of vulnerable children we reach by training women in our unique method of early childcare education. Through our one year Balpalika and 26 days Building Childcare Capacity teacher training programmes, we equip women from underprivileged backgrounds to care for the very young child. Additionally, in the last six months MMC has run several vocational training programmes for women and youth in order to increase the opportunities in their life and in the lives of their children. MMC also launched its first Migration Resource Centre, meant to serve as a base to empower communities through increased access to knowledge, literature, and information. At MMC we strive to improve existing programmes and expand our reach to serve the migrant community in Mumbai better in every possible way.

## Building Staff Capacities

At MMC, we strongly believe in the importance of building our staff capacities in order to provide the best possible services to the communities we serve. In September 2012, MMC's Human Resources and Administration Manager, Ms. Frahinsa Pinto, participated in an executive education program, 'Dasra Social Impact', organised by Dasra. The six month training programme included intensive workshops to enhance participants' skills in the areas of strategic planning, financial modelling, human resource planning and management, governance, networking, communications, and basic monitoring and evaluation. The workshops and training sessions have equipped Frahinsa with the necessary skills to enhance her work at MMC!

### MMC in numbers

**23** lokdoots conducted and over 6000 community members reached

**4** health camps held and over 300 community members reached

Over **150** pan cards facilitated for people living on construction sites

**5** centres opened and **4** centres shut in the last six months

**6** eye camps were organised from which over 350 community members benefitted



*Shaheen Shaikh posing with the educational aids - puppets, she has made*

Shaheen Shaikh, Assistant Library Coordinator, and member of our training group, was awarded a scholarship to further her education and enrol for the Bachelor of Arts degree course. We hope that with our support Shaheen will become the first generation in her family to attend college, and take on a more responsible position at MMC!

Additionally our Centre Staff continue to participate in a number of exciting training sessions and workshops which include the introduction of new teaching techniques, refreshing their first aid training, and increasing their knowledge of important issues. We thank the organisations who so generously worked with us in our staff training workshops: Pratham, Comet Media Foundation, The Sound Space, Bookworm and Arpan.

## Notes from the Field

### **The Annual Book Week- Five days of reading, learning & sharing at MMC centres**

MMC's third annual book week was held from Oct. 15th to 19th, 2012. In preparation for the Book Week we organised new books in different genres and languages to be sent to the centres to explore the world of books with the children. We also provided newspapers throughout the week to encourage children to learn about the world around them, and to share their knowledge with the community. The Book Week encourages children to read, helps them express their creativity, and encourages team work and learning. During the Book Week the older children also went on several outings to libraries as well as municipal schools to observe their activities and make presentations on the books they had read.

### **Recent initiatives to expand our training programme:**

#### **Exhibiting the work of our 'Balpalika' trainees**

On March 9th, 2013 our 19 Balpalika trainees, 11 of whom come from the construction sites, presented their learning at the training programme by displaying teaching aids made on the theme of ground transportation. For many trainees this was the first time they faced an audience and exhibited their work. We thank our friends from IL&FS – Ms. Archana Hingorani, Ms. Ranjita Deo, and Ms. Meher who were Chief Guests for the exhibition. They motivated and encouraged the trainees by attending the event and speaking to them about their work.

#### **Building Childcare Capacities outside construction sites**

We collaborated with ICDS officials and conducted a three-day training courses in the Ambarnath area, reaching a total of 31 women. The course focused on specialised care-giving instructions for children from birth -3 years, children with disabilities, developing new teaching methods, and creating child-friendly educational tools from recycled materials. The course also briefed teachers on important milestones of child development enriching both their skills and their knowledge. MMC also conducted three 26-day 'Building Childcare Capacities' training programmes. The goal of this training is to provide women from marginalised slum communities with basic training on infant care and giving them the skills necessary to find work as crèche workers or open their own day care centres. The courses had a total of 40 graduates. We have high hopes about what these women will do with their new found skills.

#### **A unique graduation ceremony- on a construction site!**

Shivalik, one of our builder partners, asked us to conduct a training programme on their construction sites. MMC was happy to conduct an eight-month training which produced nine graduates. It was wonderful partnering with a builder to empower women on construction sites. We are very proud of the group of graduates and wish the best for them in their future endeavours!

#### **Sharing our knowledge of the art of Puppet Making**

MMC staff is well known in the art of puppetry, a teaching aid that we have found to be extremely effective. In the past six months our master puppeteers Kattababu and Taramati Padwal, conducted seven workshops and shows reaching a total of 617 people. These workshops were conducted in collaboration with various organisations, NGOs, and colleges with the goal of teaching puppetry as an effective means of educating and raising awareness. We hope the skills we impart to other organizations will help them to further their goals and missions.

#### **Organising an unforgettable experience by the shore for our children**

404 children from 20 centres attended our Annual Camp held in December 2012. The camp is a wonderful opportunity for children from our various centres to meet and interact with each other. We were able to include a number of new activities for the children including: a Game Show, a Charlie Chaplain show, and mehendi (henna) and tattoo sessions. Additionally the children participated in star-gazing, watched a magic show, performed cultural dances, and took part in a fancy dress competition. At the end of the camp children were given goodies including school bags, and dried fruits and nuts which were a wonderful surprise for them to take home. We are very grateful to IL&FS Investment Managers Ltd for part funding this year's camp.



*Children posing proudly in front of their sand castle on the marve beach*

#### **Continuing the efforts of our day-care programme**

Part of MMC's programme is ensuring that children pursue their education beyond our centres. This means implementing our numerous programmes for family empowerment as well as ensuring that families can afford to send their children to school. Our scholarship programme helps remove the financial pressure from parents with small stipends which go towards covering the cost of school fees, books, and stationery for children attending private schools. Last year we were able to support more than 30 children providing them with an opportunity to grow and prosper!

## New Initiatives

### Institutional Strengthening Measures

In October 2012, we received a grant from Impact Foundation ( India) which provided MMC with the funds necessary to undertake institutional strengthening, which has been a top priority for us. This grant provides support towards the salaries of our administrative staff, and has enabled us to put greater emphasis on improving our operations and efficiency both in our office and at centres.

### Growing our advocacy from strength to strength



*The community is engrossed in a game of carrom at our migration resource centre*

The advocacy programme at MMC is a crucial part of our effort towards breaking the tenacious hold of poverty that plagues the vulnerable community living on construction sites in Mumbai. In these past months, our advocacy programme has seen a number of important expansions. In December 2012, we opened a Migration Resource Centre on at our centre in Sahar. This new initiative targets the families of migrant workers with the overall goal of regular information dissemination and expanding their knowledge through various programmes. Thus far we have provided migrant communities with literature, newspapers, and facilitated community bonding by giving labourers a place to relax, and play board games such as carrom and chess. Our Advocacy Staff visit the centres on a regular basis to provide families with information and advice on government schemes, opening bank accounts, getting PAN cards, combating alcoholism, HIV/AIDs, spousal abuse, etc. We

hope to be able to open similar centres at other construction sites around the city and to expand the resources that we currently offer!

As part of our Advocacy Programme, to increase the rapport among the community members MMC also organises a number of outdoor games for the community living on construction sites. These games provide an afternoon of fun for the players as well as the spectators. A cricket game organized on January 26th, 2013—Republic Day—at our Sahar centre, Andheri drew a crowd of about 150 people who watched 143 participants divided into 13 teams, play cricket after a beautiful flag-raising ceremony. We also arranged a Kabbadi tournament in February 2013 in a Thane centre in which 3 teams totalling 21 participants had an afternoon full of fun and excitement!

### A new project to promote reading in the community

MMC's "Read-to-Grow" project, commenced in October 2012, and we have been extremely pleased with the results thus far! Our Library Coordinator and two Assistant Coordinators work diligently to promote reading among the children and families of migrant workers at 10 of our centres. Our library programme and the associated activities allow the children further opportunities to read both independently and with others, engage with print in meaningful ways, and develop a true love for reading. In essence, the library programme can help serve as a bridge between the child's experience of reading and writing in the classroom and his/her home life, thus making print engagement a natural and enjoyable part of the child's life. The Library programme has helped us to further develop our curriculum and provide the best possible academic services and environment for our students.

In the past six months we have conducted training sessions with MMC staff on how to manage our centre libraries, how to engage children through reading, and how to use reading as a tool to cultivate analytical and critical thinking skills. We now have a well organised storage system for our books where they are categorically sorted, based on their level of difficulty. A Story Time session has also been implemented once a week, during which the teacher narrates a story and conducts follow-up activities. The growth of our libraries at all our centres has allowed us to extend these resources to the communities we work with. Phirti Libraries, allow children and parents to check out books twice a week to take home with them. The community has really enjoyed being able to take books home to share with family members and read in their free time.



*A crèche class paying rapt attention to the story their teacher narrates*



## Fundraising and Friendraising

### Fundraising & building awareness at the Mumbai Marathon

Our largest annual fundraiser was a huge success this year! The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon, which took place on January 20th, 2013, saw eight corporate teams with a total of 180 runners as well as over 50 individual runners participating on behalf of MMC. We watched with great appreciation as our friends and donors proudly wore our logo to show their support for the cause of migrant children. Our participants always report how much fun and excitement there is in running alongside nearly 40,000 people, whether they compete in the Dream Run (6 km), the half marathon (21 km), or the full marathon (42 km). We were thrilled with the large number of corporates and individuals who have committed to running on our behalf. For details on how you can get involved in next year's marathon, please contact [elsa@mmcmail.org.in](mailto:elsa@mmcmail.org.in)

### MMC's presence on social media

MMC is proud to announce that you can now "Follow" us on Twitter @MMC\_NGO, "Friend" and "Like" us on Facebook at Mumbai Mobile Creches, and "Follow" us on Google+ at Mumbai Mobile Creches! We hope to use social media as a way to keep interested parties up-to-date with our latest activities and achievements. Please join us on these social networks as a way of supporting our cause, creating awareness, and staying informed about our activities!

### Thank you!

We are deeply grateful for the support of our many friends - individuals, organizations, and corporates alike - in helping us build a bright future for migrant children in Mumbai. Our work would not have been possible without your generosity and commitment to our programmes. In particular, we would like to thank:

- All the runners who supported MMC in the Charity run - Footsteps4Good held in October 2013.
- Amrit Vasudeva Trust for supporting our education programme.
- Australian Consulate General Direct Aid Program for providing much needed infrastructure equipment and teaching material for our centres.
- Bookworm for organising capacity building sessions for our staff.
- Centrum, Deloitte, DHFL, DraftfcB Ulka, EdelGive Foundation, Edenred, Geometric Ltd, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd, Infinity Retail, Nomura Services India Pvt Ltd., TATA Capital whose employees so generously spent time volunteering at our centres.
- Dr. Nirja Takkar for sponsoring a special lunch for our children.
- Dr. Pareshnath Paul for his much appreciated continued monthly support.
- IL&FS Investment Managers Ltd, Mrs. & Mr. Helps, YashRaj Research Foundation, and all other patrons who donated towards our annual camp.
- Indus International for supporting our nutrition programme.
- Jamsetji Tata Trust for supporting our advocacy programme.
- Kashinath Charitable Trust for supporting our corpus fund.
- KPMG in India for continuing to support our work, for organizing a number of volunteering events and fun outings for children, and for adding a much needed colour coat on the walls of several of our centres.
- Mr. Ananthraman and Mr. Rajat Gupta for generously giving support to our teachers' salaries.
- Ms. Jeannette Anand and Namaskar Mumbai for fundraising for our cause.
- Mr. Karthik Mahalingam and Omidiyar Network India for supporting our work.
- Mr. Anurag Chaddha for helping us build a data management system.
- Mr. Kishore Mariwala and Mrs. Shalini Mariwala for supporting our programme.
- Mr. Nish Bhutani and Ms. Gayatri Pahaljani for their fabulous fundraising efforts at the Mumbai Marathon, 2013.



*We thank you for supporting our future!*

- Mr. Robert Pavery, Mr. Sunil Nakashe, Mr. Shirish Rahalkar, Mr. Ravi Bangera and Mr. Sanjeev Joshi for their assistance with accounts and regulatory work.
- Ms. Vidya Vasania for generously supporting our corpus fund.
- Mr. Vineet Dhingra for sponsoring a number of outings and t-shirts for the children.
- Ms. Tanaz Daver for contributing to our music programme.
- Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust for supporting our reading and literacy programme.
- Our donors—Child Vikaas International, Concern India Foundation, EdelGive Foundation, The British Asian Trust, The Global Fund for Children, for their continuous and very generous support of our work.
- Rajhans Vidyalaya for inviting MMC children to participate in their sports day. A total of 226 children from 10 centres attended!
- Tash McCarroll and Fahrinisa Oswald for helping us in photo documenting our various programmes.
- The Central Social Welfare Board for supporting our programme.
- The X'Mas Fund for making a generous donation towards our cause.
- Verein Mobile Krippen Freiburg, Premadhara der Strom Liebe e.V. and Mr. and Mrs. Pankoke for their consistent and invaluable support.
- Other friends who have helped us to sustain our commitment to the children of construction workers.