

# Reflections

The year 2015-16 has again sped by on wings as it were. We are grateful to God, our donors and well-wishers, our supportive and motivating Board, our dedicated and committed staff and of course our beloved beneficiaries without which we would not have been able to have the impact that we do. It never ceases to amaze us how faithfully and wonderfully God leads us through each situation whether successes or challenges. At the end of the financial year, our balance sheet looks encouraging in all aspects and this perks and lifts us up.

Our very last adoption happened on the 2nd of January 2016 when Deena went to the U.S with her forever family David and Jamie Veprek at the age of 8. We need to make a special mention here about this family who adopted Ramya - a child with special needs including cerebral palsy a few years ago from VCT. At that point in time, they happened to see Deena, a child with orthogenesis imperfect or the brittle bone disease in our care. Although she came to us at the age of 2, it was next to impossible to find her a suitable family because of her multiple regular fractures. We do believe that it's only because this family interacted with Deena and saw her beyond her disabilities that she found a permanent home. Today we see that her joy knows no bounds and she thrives with her loving family.

Our vision of strengthening and empowering families from the economically and socially marginalized brought us a lot of hope. We continue to focus on the ever increasing migrant population who continue to flood our city. The children aged between 2 and 12 benefit from both education and nutrition.

Our children are taught the 3 R's, and the older children are also part of our vocational training including the making of jute bags.

We know that more than 30% of the 309 million people in India who migrate internally are children. Bangalore is one of the key destinations. However, this population fails to receive the attention international migration receives from researchers, international organizations and funding agencies (UNESCO, 2013, p.3).

This lack of recognition leads to various concerns for the migrant population including inadequate safe housing and lack of formal residency rights; low-paid, insecure and hazardous work and extreme vulnerability to trafficking for migrant women and children (UNESCO-2013).

Our educational sponsorship now covers 1000 happy students who are not only helped to pursue their academics but also have an opportunity to interact with our engaging staff who lend a listening ear and translates their dreams and thoughts to their sponsors.

Our training continues alongside and touches paramedical workers in villages, migrant families in slums, parents and teachers in schools both in Bangalore and other backwards districts including Raichur, Koppal and Muranpur.

We earnestly look to the author and finisher of our faith who we know will continue to empower and use us into the future.

Mary Paul  
*Executive Director*



# Community Development Programme

## Building a stronger community

We build healthy communities, families and individuals for social change. By partnering with a range of partners, from ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives), Asha Workers, Village Health Committees to Government Agencies, we focus on parenting, help build the means to improve health, ensure proper nutrition and combat infectious diseases in 21 villages in Devanahalli Taluk.

Observing the deterioration of quality of marriage and family, we offer external professional inputs to ensure happy parents and children growing up in a holistic atmosphere.

## Our achievements:

### Spreading Healthcare

- Koira Asha workers held a rally along with 76 students from the Govt. School from Koira village on Malaria Awareness Day.
- Visiting all the homes in Beerasandra village, the Koira Workers spread awareness on Malaria and tips to prevent & how to keep the surrounding clean.

### Creating awareness

- Educated the Asha Workers on the availability of schemes for villages (21 villages come under Koira PHC) initiated by the government.
- Asha Workers met the Head of the Gram Panchayat in Byadarahalli village Primary Health Centre doctor and informed them about the problems faced the villagers.

### Extending our services

- Held discussions with the Asha Workers and ANMs to initiate a community programme in the neighbouring villages in Devanahalli Taluk. Visited 21 villages to get a first-hand view of the situation.
- Asha Workers met one of the ANMS in Vishwanathapuram to assess the number of children living in this area.
- Asha Workers also met the Head of the Gram Panchayat, Primary Health Centre doctor and informed them of the problems faced by the villagers.
- Met the Gram Panchayat PDO to implement Swacha Bharath to keep the villages and the surrounding clean, neat and prevent communicable diseases through flies and mosquitos.



## Training Programmes

Our trained staff provide regular life-skills training on various topics including nutrition, parenting, child protection, stress management and the importance of education. The audience included migrant families, parents of children under educational sponsorship, local villages and local communities (including slum visits), migrant paramedical staff and health workers at primary health care centres. Our staff are regularly trained on statutory child protection regulations, behaviour management strategies and the complexities of working with migrant children.

### Our achievements:

- Conducted a training programme in Kolar for 100 students from the field of engineering, nursing, schools under our sponsorship programme on Food groups. The children and parents took an active part in the interaction session on parenting.
- 41 children from various schools attended a get-together under our Local Education Sponsorship programme along with their parents at our centre on 2nd October 2015. We organised Pot Painting, Drawing and Painting and Games and awarded prizes for the winners.
- Our team visited 23 schools and conducted two sessions for students and for parents on stress, anaemia, vomiting and diarrhoea.
- Conducted training on "Parenting and Importance of Education for both girls and boys" for 854 parents on limiting TV watching time, keeping up promises given to children, restricting the use of mobile at an early age and its ill-effects.

## Special classes for children at Swanthana

### Building a strong foundation

We believe that education is important for all children, but even more so for mentally challenged children. We work with Swanthana, an institution for mentally challenged children with mild, moderate and severe disabilities associated with multiple disorders to teach the children songs, identification of numbers, colours. Our work is gathering momentum, and we are happy with the turnaround of progress the children are making.

### Our achievements:

- Provided special classes to 15 children
- Taught 46 children songs, rhymes and colour concept using the rings, plastic fruits and vegetables
- Introduced oral teaching; children enjoyed colouring.
- Children have progressed well and are enthusiastic to attend classes regularly.
- Provided teaching materials to help children improve their cognitive and fine motor skills.

## Orientation Programme



### Sharing our knowledge and skills

We share our expertise and knowledge through our Orientation Programme to students from various institutions.

### Our achievements:

- Students from Kristu Jayanthi College and Oxford University during their field visit learnt about Vathsalya's adoption, day care for the migrant children and attended a training programme on parenting, nutrition conducted in schools and villages.



## Migrant families



### Ensuring support for children of migrant workers

We visited 87 families of migrant children, gathering information about the background and living conditions and supporting them in education and healthcare.

### Our achievements:

- Areas visited - Kamanahalli, Babusapalaya, Lingrajapuram, Naginpalaya and Kalyan Nagar.
- Provided informal education, nutritious food, and created safe surroundings to the children.
- Provided training in the area of health, hygiene and parenting to parents

"For the first time in our life, we understood why educating our children is important. We will enrol our children in regular school after they complete their studies at the Vathsalya informal school. Now, I am dreaming of my daughter working in a big office" – A parent