

2008

Vibha Annual Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vibha 2008 – Highlights	3
A Decade of Dreams - The Dream Mile	4
Vibha’s People	7
Volunteer Relations	10
Vibha in India	13
2008 Financials- Balance Sheet	15
Projects Summary	19
Projects Write Ups	23
A Letter from the Board	32

VIBHA 2008 - Highlights

2008 marked a year of growth and prosperity for many of Vibha's action centers: old and new. Atlanta, one of Vibha's oldest action centers, marked a milestone with its tenth DreamMile Walk and Run and Vibha Cricket Cup. Both events were highly successful for the chapter with record breaking patron and volunteer participation. The volunteer base in Atlanta has also steadily increased marking the tenth year with an estimated 100 active volunteers. Atlanta can also boast of numerous volunteers who participate and mentor at the national level for newer action centers. Atlanta's committed leadership has been an example at the local level and for Vibha volunteers across the nation. The Atlanta action center also played host to Vibha's national volunteer conference attracting volunteers from several different action centers.

While the seasoned Atlanta action center continued its success, newer action centers like Houston and Milwaukee surpassed expectations for such newly established centers. Houston brought in \$35,000 in net revenue last year, hosted a highly attended concert and is already in fifth place in terms of revenue. Using excellent publicity techniques to attract and retain volunteers from the large pool of Indian Americans in the fourth largest city in the nation, the volunteer numbers have grown and developed many leaders for the organization.

In contrast, Milwaukee, an Action Center with a very limited Indian population and not always favorable weather brought in \$8500 in revenue. The action center even funded a local charity in such a short time. Both of these action centers are examples of leadership, drive and volunteer commitment, creating a memorable year.

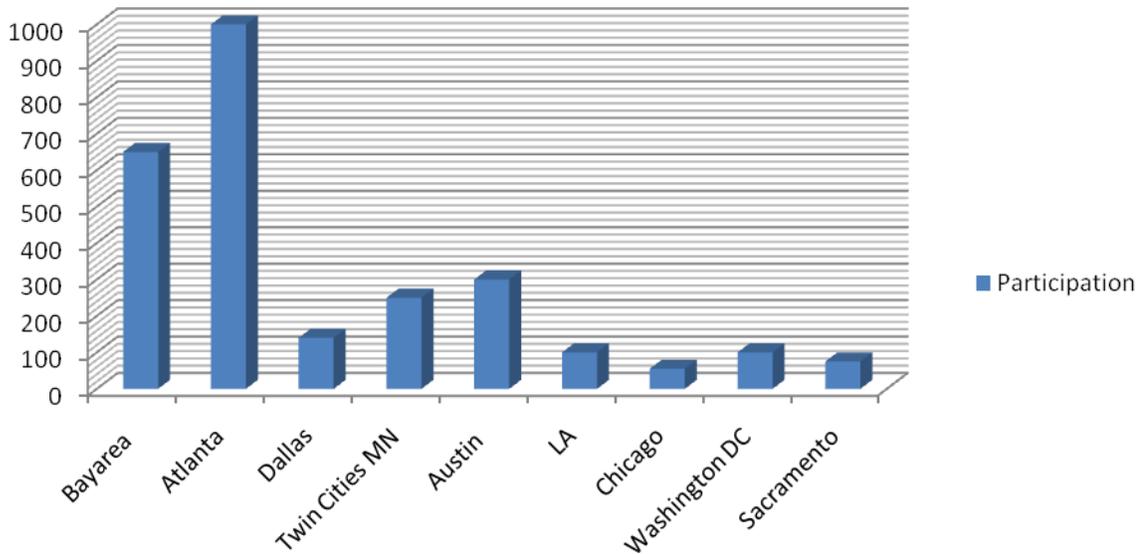
A DECADE OF DREAMS, THE DREAM MILE

A decade of dreams, a decade of hope. Since 1998, Vibha's Dream Mile 5k/10k Run/Walk has come to symbolize the dreams and hope of thousands of children in India and in the US. Every year, thousands of likeminded individuals across the US come together to run or walk to turn the dreams of these under-privileged kids into reality.

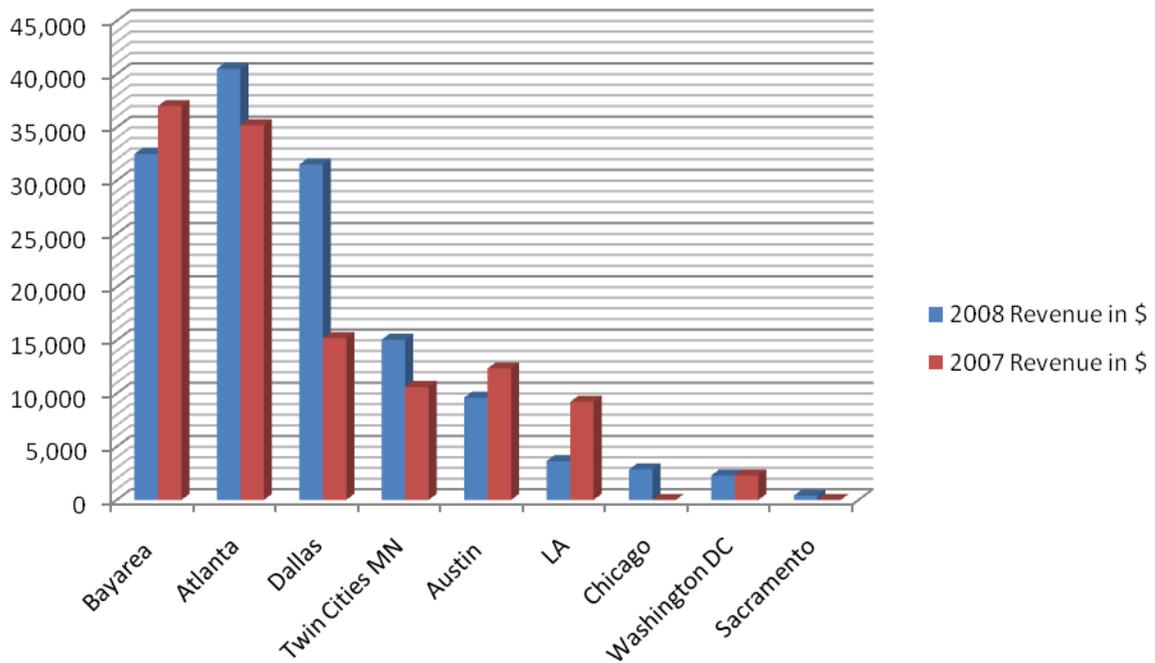
2008 marked the 10th anniversary of this event in Atlanta* and Bayarea**. This meant that volunteers from these action centers were more motivated than ever to take this event to newer heights. Atlanta volunteers designed special pledge campaigns around the decade celebrations and used every opportunity to educate donors and patrons about Vibha's cause. The Bayarea action center took its publicity efforts up one notch to drive more registrations for the Dream Mile. Both action centers decimated all previous registration records with more than 1000 runners/walkers registering for the Atlanta event and over 650 runners/walkers registering for the Bay area event.

2008 also saw 2 new action centers, Sacramento and Chicago, jump into the fray and host the Dream Mile. This meant that the Dream Mile was hosted in 9 cities across the US in 2008. The Sacramento Dream Mile attracted over 75 runners and the Chicago event pulled in about 55 participants. Other action centers hosting the Dream Mile included Dallas, Austin, Twin Cities MN, LA and Washington DC. In all, over 2700 participants from all walks of life participated in the Dream Mile across the USA.

Participation



In terms of revenue generated, the 2008 edition of the Dream Mile was by far the most successful ever. Over \$138,000 was raised from this event across the 9 cities. This marked a 13.5% growth in revenue year over year from 2007. The Atlanta action center took the lead by raising over \$40,000. The “Million Dreams Pledge Drive” that’s associated with the Dream Mile every year also resulted in record revenues. Volunteers and Participants set up personalized fundraising pages and raised money through their friends, family and colleagues to support Vibha’s cause. Over \$108,000*** was raised from this pledge drive alone.



The Dream Mile event not only raises valuable funds that help fund various Vibha projects, it also creates awareness about Vibha’s mission to bring hope to the less privileged. Patrons who participate in the event find themselves more connected to the cause and more committed to doing their bit to help. The event has thus become an effective vehicle to highlight the cause that Vibha is working towards. 2009 promises to be an extremely exciting year for this event. With a target of \$200,000 in a challenging economy, action centers will have to work that much harder to meet this target. However, with the enthusiastic and motivated volunteer force and supporting patrons, Vibha is confident of starting another decade of dreams this year.

* Atlanta launched its Dream Mile in 1998, but did not host the event in 2002. 2008 thus marked the 10th anniversary of this event in Atlanta.

** Bay area first hosted this event in 1999.

*** The revenue raised from the pledge drive is included in the overall revenue of \$138,000 from the overall event.

VIBHA'S PEOPLE

Board of Directors

Mr. Ron Victor, President & Treasurer
Mr. Vijay Vemulapalli, Secretary
Mr. Rajesh Haridas, Ex-Officio Member

Executive Committee:

Mr. Rajesh Haridas, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Kumar Parthasarathy, Director, Programs & Projects
Mr. Mukesh Mirchandani, Director, Fund Raising - Events
Mr. Harshad Parakh, Director, Fund Raising – Programs
Ms. Sarah Das, Director – Volunteer Relations
Ms. Shruthi Sheorey, Director – Patron Relations
Mr. Sreekanth Bhaskaran – Director – Marketing
Dr. Ramdass Nagarajan – Director – Information Technology

National Leads:

Ms. Sandhya Acharya – Foundations & Grants
Mrs. Preethi Chandrasekhar – Help Them Grow
Mrs. Anuya Sheorey – Vibha Beneficiary Program
Mr. Arun Santhanam – Project Monitoring
Mrs. Rohini Mohan – Vibha Xpressions
Mr. Ganesh Kumar – Project Visit
Mrs: Sowmya Iyengar – Vibha Dream Registry
Mr. Baheerathan Anandharengan – Change For Children

Consultants/Contractors:

Mr. Vivek Sharma, Manager, Administration
Mrs. Zankhana Patel, Project Monitoring Lead

Action Center Leads:

Atlanta:

Mr. Jaimin Modi

Mr. Keshav Kumaran

Austin:

Mr. Suriya Subramanian

Mr. Sreekant Balaji

Bay Area:

Mr. Baheerathan Anandharengan

Mr. Vikram Chandran

Mr. Umesh Lakshman

Boston:

Mr. Kalpesh Dhabahawala

Mrs. Shamila Thakur

Chicago:

Mr. Nikhil Neelakantan

Mr. Chandan Singh

Dallas:

Mrs. Aditi Tendulkar

Mr. Shrikant Patel

Mr. Kapil Patel

Denver:

Mr. Vinod Ravindran

Mr. Arul Prasad Senniappan

Houston:

Mr. Raghu Yabaluri
Mr. Vishal Bang

Los Angeles:

Mr. Gokul Kumar
Ms. Sneha Antani

New Jersey:

Ms. Gayathri Apparasu
Ms. Vibha Rakhecha
Mr. Ronak Mehta

Philadelphia:

Ms. Shailaja Kaveti

Sacramento:

Mr. Pradeep Kowkutla
Mr. Arvind Balakumar

Twin Cities - Minnesota:

Ms. Kalpana Vishwanathan
Mr. Ashish Gaikwad

Washington DC:

Ms. Suchitra Natarajan

VOLUNTEER RELATIONS

Action Centers (2008)

Action Center	2008 Summary/Highlights
Atlanta	The Atlanta action center estimates it had about 100 volunteers in 2008 working to contribute to the success of its three major events.
Austin	The Austin action center is a registered University of Texas organization and is a growing chapter. The action center estimates it had about 10 volunteers in 2008 helping out with their Dream Mile and Cricket Tournament along with attending the weekly meetings.
Bay Area	The Bay Area action center estimates it had almost 100 volunteers in 2008. Many of the Bay Area volunteers are involved with Vibha at a national level in addition to volunteering and planning for their well attended events of Disco Dandia and the Dream Mile which had the most participants since 2001.
Boston	The Boston action center is one of Vibha's newest additions. The center currently has a few dedicated volunteers and made significant progress in 2008 for recruiting volunteers and publicizing Vibha in the greater Boston area.
Chicago	The Chicago action center is a growing Vibha center. Estimated to have about 15 volunteers in 2008, it is working to recruit more
Dallas	Dallas is an intermediate sized action center with an estimated 15 volunteers in 2008. They successfully conducted four major events including the Art for Heart event and Kite Flying festival in addition to the two major events.
Denver	The Denver action center is one of Vibha's newest additions. In 2008, with

	its few dedicated volunteers, the action center held booths to recruit and spread the word throughout the Denver area.
Houston	The Houston action center is one of Vibha's newer centers yet had a big year with high revenue events and a great deal of volunteer growth. Houston estimated to have 30 volunteers in 2008.
Milwaukee	The Milwaukee action center is one of Vibha's newest additions. In 2008, the center estimated having 20 active volunteers and executed a number of events.
Los Angeles	The Los Angeles action center is a growing action center. The center identified new local leadership in 2008 and began recruiting volunteers and publicizing throughout the southern California region.
New York/New Jersey	New Jersey is a re-established action center. In 2008, with its 11 volunteers, the group held booths to recruit and spread the word throughout the New York/New Jersey area.
Philadelphia	The Philadelphia action center is one of Vibha's newest additions. In 2008, with its few dedicated volunteers, the action center held booths to recruit and spread the word throughout the Philadelphia area.
Sacramento	Sacramento is a growing action center. In 2008, the AC estimated 30 active volunteers were involved in planning and executing events like the Dream Mile and attended meetings.
Twin Cities, Minnesota	The Minnesota action center is an intermediate sized action center. In 2008, the AC estimated 28 active volunteers successfully executed a number of unique events including a golf tournament and bowling tournament. The action center was also the first in the nation to launch an online art/writing competition.

Washington D.C.	Washington D.C. is an intermediate sized action center. In 2008, the AC estimated 35 active volunteers were involved in planning and executing events like the Disco Dandia and Dream Mile.

VIBHA IN INDIA

Vibha was registered as a trust in India on April 16, 2008. The primary purpose of registering the organization in India is to promote the cause of underprivileged children through direct involvement of volunteers in India. Building on the success and the experiences gained in spreading awareness and mobilizing individuals in USA, Vibha in India aims to replicate the effort, with more focus on direct interaction with the beneficiaries. In the process, Vibha in India also provides us with a unique opportunity to get a firsthand account of the challenges faced by the projects and the children. The primary objectives of Vibha in India are:

- Identification, funding, monitoring, capacity building and mentoring projects for development of underprivileged children
- Promoting the concept of Volunteerism and enabling direct action
- Generating awareness and engaging society in solutions
- Analyzing projects for replicable ideas and propagating the ideas nation wide
- Working with social service institutions and providing internships/fellowships to students

Responding to the call for volunteers, volunteering requests have been pouring in from all corners of India. We have already started 5 thriving Action Centers in Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

Volunteers at these action centers are actively involved with various projects supported by Vibha and have started making a positive impact in the lives of many underprivileged children.

- Vibha Bengaluru, the first Action Center in India is leading the way with regular events at Vibha supported projects in and around Bengaluru. Vibha Children's Day has become a monthly activity in the calendar of HOPE School. Every month, volunteers organize a fun filled day for kids from different grades including a recent trip to the local zoo for the 7th graders which provided a memorable experience for the kids. Volunteers also organized an event with kids at Shristi Academy on October 2, 2008 for Gandhi Jayanthi.
- Vibha Pune is blazing a trail of its own. Volunteers from Pune conducted health clinics with the help of volunteer doctors at Door Step School and

- Rachana where approximately 300 kids were checked for eye, dental, cardiovascular and other health issues.
- Vibha Mumbai volunteers traveled with the “Toy Van” of Children’s Toy Foundation which aims to improve creativity and motivation levels of children by providing access to toys, puzzles and other fun activities. Congratulations to Urvi Ruia, a Mumbai volunteer whose animation clip about Vibha has been nominated for a CAG award given to three best advertising projects in all of the colleges in Mumbai.
 - Vibha New Delhi volunteers got tangible proof of how a project transforms the life of underprivileged children when they visited Alamb and met some alumni who have gone on to open a beauty parlor of their own and become independent.
 - Undeterred by the lack of any Vibha supported projects in Hyderabad, volunteers of Vibha Hyderabad have reached out to Freedom Foundation and found ways to help children in need. They have been spending time with kids with active HIV and brightening up their days with a lot of fun filled activities.

Whilst building a strong volunteer base, Vibha in India is also preparing to raise funds in India and is in the process of securing 12-A/80-G certification. With 12-A/80-G certification, Vibha India will get tax-exempt status and the donors can obtain tax deductions. The current Board of trustees for Vibha in India consists of Vijay Vemulapalli (President), Sreekanth Pannala (Secretary), Jeydev Rajamani (Treasurer) and Ron Victor. Jeydev Rajamani is also the acting COO of Vibha in India.

We are very excited about Vibha in India, proud of what it has accomplished in a short span. We look forward to many great things in the future as the Vibha family grows across the continents.

2008 FINANCIALS – BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$233,318
Investments (At lower of cost or market)	\$497,872
Receivables	\$ 4,417
Other assets	\$ 684

Total Assets \$736,291

Current Liabilities

Accounts payables and other current liabilities	\$22,467
Total Current Liabilities	\$22,467

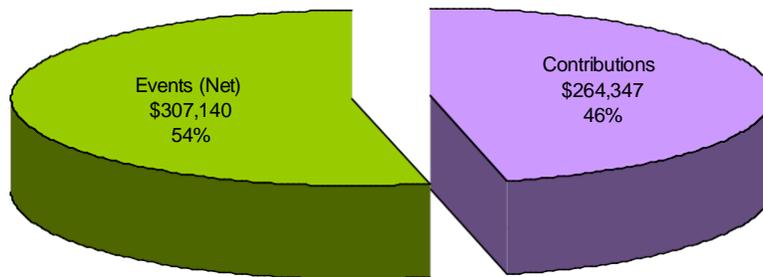
Net Assets

Unrestricted general funds	\$713,824
Temporarily restricted	-
Total Net Assets	\$713,824

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$736,291

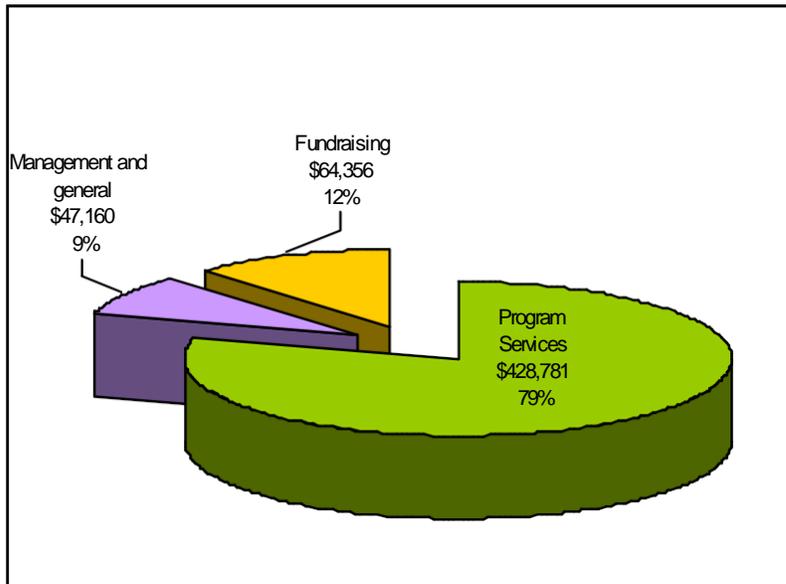
Revenue

Vibha receives majority of its revenue from supporters like you. Your donations and involvement in our events make it possible for us to help underprivileged children in India and in the U.S.



Expenditure

Vibha spends less than 10% on overhead. That means almost all of your contributions go towards supporting child related projects.



Increased Disbursements To Projects

Vibha is committed to making increased disbursements to child related projects in India and in the U.S. Over the last five years, Vibha has seen a significant increase in the amount of funds disbursed compared to that in 2003, creating a positive impact over more and more children, year after year. Additionally, over the last two years, Vibha has focused on scaling up certain projects so that more comprehensive services can be provided. Your generous contributions help us increase our support to projects each year.



PROJECTS: SUMMARY

Project Name	Project Description	# Beneficiaries	Amount Funded (\$)
Alamb	Vibha funds the girl child education and vocational training program. The educational component covers non-formal education for children who have either dropped out of school or have never been to school. Also includes remedial education for public school children who have no tutor support at home largely because the parents themselves are uneducated. The parents may be engaged in factory work, tailoring, domestic help, or as drivers, rickshaw pullers or are unemployed. The vocational training is for girls 14 and above to prepare them to be independent earners.	550	\$29645
AMTA Block	The primary goal is to empower girls between the ages of 14-18, who are below the poverty line, by providing basic non-formal education and vocational training. Girls are taught vegetable cultivation, poultry farming, goatery, and provided micro-finance education. In 2008, 100 girls learned to read and write simple sentences, to count, and have begun to generate small amounts of income through the income generation activities learned at the project.	100	\$5,561
AURED	The aim of this project is to habilitate hearing impaired children and to integrate them into mainstream schools. They do this by providing cochlear implants and hearing aids to hearing impaired children, and Auditory Verbal Approach therapy. Vibha supports the post-implant/ post-hearing aid therapy providers' salaries as well as the cost of hearing aid batteries and some other accessories. The number of beneficiaries increased from 264 to 341.	341	INR 501,600 \$11,588
BTS (Baikunthapur a Tarun	This project primarily provides pre-school education to prepare kids for public school using activity based methods. Children are provided one meal a day since they tend not to receive adequate nourishment	150	

Sangha), 24 Parganas, West Bengal.	at home. The kids are also given medical check-ups every six months. With Vibha's support, the teachers of this project received training from Swanirvar (another NPO) in teaching techniques as well as developing teaching and learning materials.	\$16,501
Chiguru, Bangalore	This project provides inclusive education to 150 55 mentally challenged and autistic individuals and 30 normal kids. The 10 month, UNICEF attested curriculum is aimed primarily at improving motor skills, language, and cognition. A medical camp and parent-teachers' meetings were held. Older children learned basic rules of hygiene, counting up to 20 (varying with age of children), partial English alphabets and partial Kannada alphabets, games, and some motor skills through crafts.	
CORP India, Mumbai.	Focus in 2008 has been on providing remedial 225 education to public school children from disadvantaged groups who had an attendance of 95%; balwadi for pre-school children, who are taught by story-telling and other playful activities. Mainstreaming of 17 mentally challenged was facilitated by arranging for all the necessary certifications and documentation. 29 children from the slums were provided a night shelter.	\$12,358.00
GORD, Chittoor district, AP	Founded in 1984, this project has a broad goal of 3882 rural development. Vibha supports the computer education component of this project, which is provided to public school students as supplementary education and also funds additional teachers that this project provides to public schools. While usually the school drop-out rates among rural children tend to be high, the schools supported by this project had no drop-outs in 2008. The computer learning facility, sports activities, health camps and most importantly, the study tours are playing a very big role in retaining children's interest in schooling.	\$17,448
GRSV, West Medinipur dist., West Bengal	As an attempt to improve on the education received 161 in public school, this project is essentially an after school remedial program. Vibha also funds an annual trip for students who graduate from 10 th grade, two health exams a year, and other non-	\$2,967

academic activities such as music.

<p>\$GVT, Bharuch, Gujarat</p>	<p>This project aims to provide pre-school education (Balwadis) to disadvantaged children. The project was started in 2007 with the construction of Balwadis, which has continued through 2008. In 2008, they conducted some pre-school education in temporary premises for the 57 kids enrolled.</p>	<p>57</p>	<p>We didn't send anything to GVT in 2008</p>
<p>HOPE Foundation, Bangalore, Karnataka</p>	<p>Provides formal education and a midday meal to slum children. Use of Azim Premji Foundation's educational CDs based on the state syllabus has improved interest and learning levels. HOPE teachers are being trained by GE Foundation to implement a life skills program.</p>	<p>297</p>	<p>\$19,600</p>
<p>Navjyoti, New Delhi</p>	<p>This is a remedial education project for slum children. In 2009, they saw an increase in the number of their students who, having passed 10th grade with the help of Navjyoti, were interested in getting a higher education. A meet for alumni of Navjyoti with current students was organized, which helped current students understand the application of the education they were receiving. Navjyoti has employed 30 of its graduates to teach in their projects. They also saw a jump in the number of 10th grade students from 40 in the previous year to 71 in 2008-2009.</p>	<p>300</p>	<p>\$21,490.00</p>
<p>SVVPS (Dishari), Durgapur, West Bengal</p>	<p>A pre-school education project until now, remedial education classes for public school students in grades 1-4 have been started, with past students of Dishari serving as tutors. After training from Swanirvar, the teachers at Dishari have begun to implement learning by doing. Three of the teachers have been identified as potential trainers. Parents have been involved with the project with mothers serving food to the children, keeping the centers clean, attending music and clay moulding classes and the cultural activities. The fathers have expressed interest in being involved in arranging the cultural activities, science exhibition, and educational trips.</p>	<p>338</p>	<p>\$8,309.50</p>

PROJECTS: WRITE UPS

HEARDS, Andhra Pradesh

Project Name: Integrated Programme for Elimination of Child Labour through Educational, Vocational and Recreational Programme for Child Laborers

Name of the Organization Health Education Adoption Rehabilitation Development Society (HEARDS)

Nature of Project Rescuing child workers and informal education

Mission of the Project: The main vision and mission of this project is to eradicate child labor and to achieve education, equity & liberation for all deprived communities. One of the most pressing obligations of this project is to work on eliminating bonded and forced labor done especially by younger children. The proposed program aims to provide “protection and welfare” orientation to these child laborers. One of the primary objectives of the rehabilitation centers established under this project is to mainstream as many children as possible into the formal school system.

During the monitoring visit this year, it was found that the overall development was more evident as compared to last year. The children were doing very well and seemed to enjoy coming to the center very much. Although some kids were embarrassed about their backgrounds, they are very proud to be part of a schooling system now! The teachers and the animators are doing an excellent job with the children and in convincing the parents to keep sending their children to the center regularly.



HEARDS programme on rehabilitation of child labor started from 2002. From 2002-2005 150 children have gone through our programme with the support from National Child Labor Project. Out of these 150, 127 children have been mainstreamed into Government schools. Among these 24 children have appeared for VII class common entrance examination conducted by Government of Andhra Pradesh. All of the 24 children have passed in flying colors. All these 127 children who have been mainstreamed will be supported economically as stipends are provided for their further education.



From 2005 to 2008, the program has streamlined 99 children into regular Government Schools from the two child rehabilitation centers supported by VIBHA. During the year 2008 itself, with the help of Vibha, the Society has been able to successfully streamline 57 children. For the current academic year 2009, HEARDS is planning to streamline another 30-35 children who have good academic records during the previous year, into regular schools. These students have started to improve their educational standards slowly and thoroughly. These students have developed the culture of relating to the community in whatever manner possible to strengthen the education process in these urban slums.



Amount Funded in 2008: INR 4, 66,630; \$16,054.00 Number of Beneficiaries: 75

LAFF (CTF), Maharashtra

CHILDREN TOY FOUNDATION is a trust registered with the charity commissioner of Mumbai. Its primary objective is to inculcate in people in general and children in particular a genuine love for toys and games.

The main aim of CTF is to educate children through Play, beyond reading and writing, so as to help them acquire real skill and develop positive attitudes in their life and to instill a sense of pride within the young ones and further boost their confidence. For this they use the potential force of toys and games.

They have a mobile toy van that goes to the municipal schools in Mumbai. This van has toys and games that the school children can come and play with. They and also learn the science behind these toys and games.

Amount disbursed in 2008: \$11,500; \$8,407 Number of beneficiaries: 3000

Door Step School, Pune

Door step school (DSS), Pune, primarily exists to bring about a change in the lives of construction workers' children. Due to the migratory nature of these workers (who move from construction site to construction site), it is difficult, if not impossible, for their children to attend school. Door step school, as the name suggests, brings the school to the door step of this migrant community. The purpose of the project is not to create a parallel school system. The focus is on preparing children, via Balwadis (pre-school) and Non Formal Education (NFE: for school age kids) classes for public school.

These workers may move as frequently as every six months. In an attempt to provide some continuity to the pre-school and non-formal education experience, in 2007, DSS decided to increase the number of centers in Pune where they are based, so when the kids move with their parents, they might still have the option to attend a DSS Balwadi or NFE class as applicable. The target was to add 46 new centers to the 10 currently supported centers over a two year period, which would increase the number of beneficiaries by 2500.

In addition to the Balwadis and NFEs, DSS also increased their efforts to track students they mainstreamed into public school. Furthermore, they added study classes for these students so as to reduce the likelihood of them dropping out of school due to poor performance. This scaled up Vibha supported endeavor of DSS was estimated to cost an additional \$100,000 over a two year period. \$23,706.00

Sikshana, Bangalore

Sikshana's focus is on preventing school drop-outs among vulnerable, under-privileged communities by improving the quality of education in the existing public school system. They 'adopt' public schools through a legal deed with the state government and support them primarily by providing additional teachers, training and motivating existing teachers, and providing improved teaching and learning materials. In addition, they also provide motivational activities such as, sports meets, scholarships and performance awards, and educational field trips. Each school is expected to be supported for a period of 5 years, as needed.

Introduced as a pilot program in 2001, by the end of 2007, Sikshana had adopted 46 schools with a total of 10,000 students. In 2007, an APF (Azim Premji Foundation) benchmark test showed 54% improvement in student scores in schools adopted by Sikshana.

Vibha has been funding Sikshana since 2007. Vibha currently has a commitment of \$210,000 \$51,471.00 to this project over a period 3 years starting 2008.

JanMadhyam – EORTTEC, Delhi

Jan Madhyam has been reaching out to disadvantaged (poor, disabled, and dropout) young girls, providing avenues for vocational training and rehabilitation into the community since 1982. The major focus of their various programs has been on rehabilitation within the community adopting an Inclusive, Equal Opportunity approach. 'Every individual coming for the training is unique and should be given equal opportunities to grow', is the fundamental behind the program.

The Equal Opportunity Rural Technical Training and Education Center is home to 160+ underprivileged children (disabled, dropouts and slow learners). The training classes facilitate the educational part of Jan Madhyam. Through EORTTEC, Jan Madhyam students are exposed to vocational training, behavioral training, vocal training and other focused areas to help them realize their potential as self-sustaining members of the society. EORTTEC also trains parents on how to handle their children before, during, and after their experiences at the center.

Amount disbursed in 2008:\$14,700 \$11,025; Number of beneficiaries: 160 children

JanMadhyam – VISTAAR, Delhi

This is a project of Jan Madhyam developed to spread it's learnings from over two decades of work with marginalized persons especially girls who are intellectually challenged and its EORTTEC (Equal opportunity rural training and education center) project to include a larger group of children.

The program introduces media based education based on formal school curriculum to teachers and children of formal schools which cater to mainstream poor students from Municipal schools and Government schools in villages around Ayanagar in order to enable and encourage teachers to enroll challenged children in their schools. The main aim of the project is to showcase to the teachers that slow learners and disabled also can learn (may be to a lesser degree than normal) through these activities. Once the program matures to a certain level, the various educational and media tools will be handed over to the schools and the teachers will be trained to use them thereby empowering the teachers to take in the slow learners and the disabled in the class.

The target area for the project is Aya Nagar village in Delhi and villages adjoining Aya Nagar on Mehrauli -Gurgaon Road before Haryana Border in Delhi. With limited schools in the area and given the fact that teachers in these schools have less experience, the

disabled and the slow learning children in the area's population are left behind unattended. JanMadhyam plans to help these children by working with the school instead of starting one in parallel. They intend to extend their expertise in this field to various schools so they can adopt them and ensure that these children also get an opportunity to learn and become independent.

Amount disbursed in 2008: \$10,482; \$7,861.50 Number of beneficiaries: 1000+ (direct and indirect)

JanMadhyam – SAHAYOG, Delhi

This program of Jan Madhyam is aimed at extending its experience in Equal Opportunity, inclusive training to several NGO's and schools having persons with disability. Using their expertise, Jan Madhyam is going to send a few of their experienced teachers to train other projects which does work on similar lines with disabled children.

This program is still in infancy and JanMadhyam is already making great progress. Recently, there was a workshop in using puppets for classroom teaching and behavior modification in Chiragh an NGO based in Sithla Village, Uttarakhand. The three day workshop (in making simple puppets and using them) was a revelation for the teachers. The little performance put up for the children by their teachers after the workshop was a great success.

Amount disbursed in 2008: \$2211; \$1,657.50 Number of beneficiaries: Based on number of organizations trained

SEA - Educating and empowering fishermen community children, Tamilnadu

Society for Education and Action (SEA) has been running 6 motivation centers for fisherman and salt pan workers' children. These centers provide supplementary education after school and also help with homework. In addition to that SEA also helps children to improve their potential by involving them in drawing, painting, drama, songs, and handicrafts.

SEA has a non-residential Bridge course which provides coaching to the students who have failed in 2-3 subjects or have dropped out of school by helping these children to prepare for their 10th and 12th board exams. This center motivates working children to continue their formal education.

During the admission period in June/July, SEA organizes enrollment rallies with children in nearby villages and makes sure that all 5+ year old children are enrolled in the first standard. For the last three years SEA has been achieving 100% enrollment.

To improve the quality of Education, SEA has appointed 5 additional teachers through their Parents Teachers Association in 4 Government schools, as these government primary schools have only two teachers managing 5 classes. SEA has been paying their salaries from the donations collected.

Amount disbursed in 2008: RS. 3, 57,800/-; \$8,548.00 Number of beneficiaries: 240

BTS

BTS underwent major changes in 2008. Previously the project used to run child care centers where the crèche mothers used to look after kids during the day time and engage them in learning activities. However after Vibha project site visits, it was found that the crèche mothers lacked sufficient skills to impart any meaningful pre-primary education. The centers also lacked proper TLM materials and the teaching methods used were ineffective. Hence Vibha decided to train the teachers with the help of Swanirvar, so that the child care centers could effectively act as pre-school centers. The training was completed in 3 stages and the results of the training were felt almost immediately in all the child care centers. The quality of teaching improved tremendously, and the kids had more fun while learning. Kids who graduated from these pre-school centers were now better prepared to enter schools run by BTS in Baikunthapur. Vibha also worked with the BTS project management to make the accounting process more transparent. All in all, 2008 saw major improvements in the functioning of the BTS project.

Amount disbursed in 2008: Rs 853,350 \$16,501 ; Number of beneficiaries: 150

Vidyarambam, Tamil Nadu

The word "Vidyarambam" is derived from the Sanskrit language and it means "the beginning of learning".

Vidyarambam's initial aim was to get children started on their journey through literacy through Balwadi or pre-school learning centers for the kids of ages 3 to 5 but now because of its growing popularity and its need in almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu, the project has started providing support classes for the children already in Class 1 to 5, through its remedial course classes. Apart from this, they also started libraries in many villages where the kids have no access to the libraries.

As a part of Vibha initiative to take good things from one project to another, Vidyarambam has taken the Mobile library and Toy van concept from another Vibha supported project Children Toy Foundation (CTF), and have implemented it successfully.

Amount disbursed in 2008:\$22,800 \$29,475.00 ; Number of beneficiaries: 1100 children

Swanirvar

Funding for a full time trainer is part of the overall Swanirvar project which runs its own 4 model schools and simultaneously shares its expertise with government & NGO run schools in form of trainings, joint workshops with the teachers and directly with the students. During this empowerment process, Swanirvar involves the government school teachers, the school inspectors, the parents and the youth of the villages and the gram Panchayat members in different activities.

The main objective is to demonstrate quality education and the process of nurturing and empowering the rural population for their better future. The community participation and gradual ownership of the project activities is the most important strategy to develop accountability and increase a scope of self-sustainability in future.

In 2008, Swanirvar conducted individual school TLM (Teaching Learning Material)

to



multiplication workshops and were also able to rope in capable and willing mothers and ex students.

Swanirvar also helped 15 government schools conduct model parents and teachers meetings, by providing them

guidelines for conducting it. It was so successful that the parents have started getting involved in school and academic activities.

On the 25th of April, 2008, 47 children from Swanirvar schools and some government schools landed up at Swanirvar main centre and they were guided by Shikshamitra

children to paint the walls of the main classroom. These village children then went back and have done a wonderful job in the past year in each of their own schools with the help of teachers. The most marvelous sight is Laxminathpur FP where the verandah walls have been painted and one can see this from the road. For people of the village, such spectacularly colorful government school walls are a total pleasant surprise. Many government schools are now demanding such an “activity”. Last year Swanirvar had Rakhi making workshop and demonstrated it as a ‘fun education’ activity to two Gram Panchayats. The panchayat members & the teachers were involved right from the planning to implementation. The wider perspective on ‘education as a process of empowerment’ and ability to transfer the same at grass root level is laudable, and Vibha is proud to continue funding its efforts in 2009.

Amount disbursed in 2008: \$5,160.00 Rs. 1, 26, 078; Number of beneficiaries: Direct 9000 approx., indirect 15,000;

Sevalaya

“My father was an alcoholic and was suffering from liver damage. He expired when I was 6 years old. My mother works for a brick manufacturing unit and earns Rs. 25 a day. Due to poor health she cannot work for more than 5 – 6 hrs”. This is the story of Yashanthi, who along with her younger sister was brought to Sevalaya by her relatives six years ago. Now she is in seventh grade and her sister is in fourth. She visits her mother during Pongal holidays and her mother visits them once in a month. “If they did not bring me here, I would be definitely working with my mother in the brick kiln”. Yashanthi and her sister appeared to be very contented and so are the hundreds of children who found shelter at Sevalaya. In 2008, Vibha sponsored the expenses for 200 children attending Mahakavi Bharathiyar higher secondary school. These expenses include cost of uniforms, text books, notebooks, educational aids, stationery and examination expenses. Most of these children are the first generation in their families to be able to attend school and yet the results from academic examinations were remarkable. In tenth grade, the pass percentage was 98.5% and that in twelfth was 99%. Revathy, the daughter of a roadside tailor was the school topper in tenth grade. Umamaheshwari, whose parents are daily wage laborers, ranked first in twelfth grade. The students were also taken to various visits in temples, museums, plays and other schools to broaden their outlook. Study groups were organized every month to discuss books. NSS students participated in community service activities. Teachers were given professional training for handling primary classes.

Amount disbursed towards the project in 2008: \$2500

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Vibha Patron,

It is with utmost gratitude and incredible pride that I once again write to you about how you have enabled Vibha to achieve tremendous impact in 2008. 2008 saw the founding stone laid for another fabulous possibility – Vibha in India. Yes, Vibha in India was registered in 2008 and as I write this, already has 6 fully functional and active Action Centers in Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi and Hyderabad. Why is this so important? Just as a seed was planted in 1992 in the United States with a handful of volunteers, that has since blossomed into Vibha Inc. the founding of Vibha in India is the start of another fantastic volunteer movement towards the same Vibha mission, but now – right where the children we impact most are located.

Another 2008 milestone I'd like to bring to your attention is the fact that it is the year where we consciously decided to scale two of our 37 projects in India towards achieving potential national impact in the next 10 years. These projects are Shikshana in Karnataka and DSS (Door Step School) in Maharashtra. Both these projects have demonstrated a long-term self-sustaining cure for problems related to effective municipal school education and education for children of migrant laborers respectively.

2008 also saw extra-ordinary growth from a couple of our US action centers. In particular, I'd like to mention Houston and Milwaukee. Both these action centers have now scaled up to the next level in volunteer strength, fund-raising activity and momentum, as well as overall national participation.

Coming to the numbers, 2008 saw us raise \$571,487 and disburse \$428,781. Total cash raised was 43% greater than 2007 revenue and total disbursement was 10% greater than 2007 disbursement. Our total volunteer strength grew from x in 2007 to y in 2008. We also saw our annual signature fund-raising event the Dream Mile now being adopted by 9 action centers in 2008 v/s 7 in 2007.

Thus, all in all, another good year for Vibha from all aspects.

I look forward to your continued support and encouragement as we move ahead towards executing our mission.

Sincerely,

Ron Victor

President