



SOFKIN Newsletter – Recap 2010

SOFKIN had a magnificent year 2010 filled with many events, achievements and of course many challenges too. Here is a recap....

Fundraiser May 2010



On May 9th, SOFKIN held its fifth annual fundraiser and it turned out to be an incredible night filled with amazing dance performances, mesmerizing singing, and many heartwarming moments. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers for making this a grand success!

And of course, we owe it to our donors and sponsors for their continuous support that we received throughout the year; these contributions raised the total funds close to \$25,000 with which we were able to extend to two homes in Hyderabad, Anandamayi - home for boys, and Dwarakamayi - home for girls.

SOFKIN has also moved into a larger house in the same area to accommodate the growing number of children. The three housemothers at these homes are doing a fantastic job in giving care to these children. SOFKIN-supported Maher homes of Sadabahar and Premsagar have also expanded. Sadabahar now houses 27 children and three house mothers, and Premsagar houses 41 children managed by two house mothers and a social worker.

Stay tuned for our next annual fundraiser on May 7th 2011.

Chaya Pamula, founder of SOFKIN visited the homes in the months of May and October in order to bring new children into SOFKIN, arrange for a bigger accommodation and to ensure school and college admissions. Some children were shifted to English medium public schools. Anusha & Abhiram spent their holidays with the children and taught them dance, drawing, singing and karate. The children were taken out for a picnic to Tankbund and Charminar by Chaya.

Mr. Venkata Chalam Yerramilli is currently monitoring the domestic accounts and has been assisting the operations locally in Hyderabad.



Early in the year, Mr. & Mrs. Siddharth and Mala Bhattacharji, SOFKIN's prime donors visited the children in Hyderabad and enjoyed their time with the children. They were pleased with the operations and the overall progress of the children. In October, their daughter Preeti Bhattacharji, daughter also visited the homes in Hyderabad. To describe her experience, she said, "The kids were absolutely adorable and the house mothers were incredibly kind and welcoming. It was a really lovely visit, and my favorite part of my two-week trip to India." All of the kids and housemothers thoroughly enjoyed her visit and said they hope she visits again. SOFKIN has only been able to progress due to such dedicated friends and supporters!

Festival Celebrations @ SOFKIN

SOFKIN is an interfaith organization; believes that all religions are based on the same principle that 'service to humanity is service to God'. The children at SOFKIN come from various religions and culture. SOFKIN celebrates all the festivals irrespective of the religions.



Holi

The children celebrated Holi festival with great enthusiasm. They woke up early in the morning, showered and started preparing the colors, water balloons and color water guns. Children from the neighborhood also joined the fun splashing colors on each other. Then they ate sweets and special meals with much appreciation for what they are blessed with. Kranthi Kumar, who is eldest of all the children explained the significance of the festival to all the children.

Independence Day

Premasagar hosted a get-together of children of on Independence Day and organized singing, elocution and drawing competitions for them. The celebration was attended by Sr Lucy who distributed the prizes to the winners.

Raksha Bandhan

The celebrated Rakshabandhan, the Hindu festival devoted to the loving relationship between the brothers and sisters, by tying Rakhees to all the boys.



Ganesh Chaturdhi, Navratri & Diwali Festivals

The Ganesh idol was made by the housemothers and children. The significance of the festival was explained by Manisha, the eldest girl in SOFKIN home. The children went to their homes for two days to celebrate Navaratri (Dashera) festival with their family/relatives.

environment.

The children also celebrated the Diwali festival. Nivedita gave a stunning speech on the importance of Diwali as a victory of good over evil. The children enjoyed with the guests and especially with Abhiram by singing, dancing and playing games. SOFKIN has a policy not to burn crackers for Diwali in support of the green

Christmas

The children celebrated Christmas on the 25th December. They decorated the Christmas tree with their handmade ornaments-stars, small gift boxes, greeting cards and Santa.

Concern India Foundation, Hyderabad

Thanks to Concern India Foundation, Hyderabad for their support to SOFKIN in involving our children in various activities and games. They also sponsored Pizzas for the children on three occasions.



Birthdays @ SOFKIN

The Birthdays are celebrated monthly by combining the Birthdays of children and housemothers that fall in the month. We bring a cake and cook their favorite dishes on that day. The children from the neighborhood are invited to share the cake, and to celebrate by singing and dancing. Chaya Pamula joins them every month for these celebrations through web camera.

Love & Care @ SOFKIN

Thanks to our housemothers for the utmost care and love that they give to the children. These children at SOFKIN are treated no different from our own children and are considered as Chaya's extended family. Once a child is inducted into SOFKIN, that child is not an orphan or underprivileged anymore.

Health comes first

Thanks to **Dr. Sridhar**, who has been taking care of all the children at the Dwarakamayi and Anandamayi homes' medical needs free of charge. The children are provided monthly medical checkups and immediate assistance as needed.



Achievements

In the quarterly exams, six children have ranked in the top five in their classes and won prizes in school for academic achievement. Three other children won first prizes in essay writing and debate competitions.

Kranti, the oldest of the children in Hyderabad, placed in the 84th percentile in his 10th grade exams, and secured admission in a government polytechnic college in computer engineering and is receiving a merit scholarship that covers nearly all the fees. He also recently joined the NCC program, and not only is he learning a great deal from the program, but he is also sharing all the information, discipline, ethics and values he is learning with the younger children, and is becoming a guide and mentor to the other children in the home.

Children also participated in many sports and various art competitions and won many prizes. Chaya talks to the children twice every day, mentors and coaches elder children about self dignity, respect, personality development and safety & security. Chaya conducts weekly staff meetings with the housemothers to discuss any issues and plan for improvements in the operations.

Thanks to **Mahajan Sir**, a retired Army officer who has taken a special interest in tutoring the SOFKIN children regularly out of the goodness of his heart.

We are thankful to all our sponsors and donors for their outpouring of support for SOFKIN's cause. We hope to continue to build on the great progress made in this past year in the upcoming year, and not only expand the homes in Hyderabad, but to work even more closely with Maher on current and future projects. We look forward to your continued support in many endeavors to come!

Happy holidays to you and your family!

May the God bless you and your family with all the happiness, health and prosperity in the new year 2011.

Stay tuned for our next annual fundraiser on May 7th 2011 (on the eve of Mother's Day) !

- Composed by **Anusha Pamula**