

-Newsletter from The Vatsalya Foundation

April – June 2013

Dear Friends,

April to June is a period of studies for exams followed by fun and outings in summer vacation for the children at Vatsalya. We give below a glimpse of the action-packed three months.

Children progress to the next class

All of us were gratified to see the fruits of our labour of last academic year when almost all the children from std. 1st to under graduation passed in their respective exams. 29 of our children passed 10th std., 7 passed 11th std. while 4 passed 12th.

16 of our students pursuing higher studies in various disciplines with the financial support of CASA-CEMP Aptargroup progressed to the next level. In June 2013 our team members completed the admission process for the new and old children as our objective is to enrol each and every child to school.

Educational Tours



Girls of Mahim and Bandra Centres at the Kanheri caves

Summer vacations are a time to explore the world and have fun for our children. Day-long as well as 2-3 days tours were organised for the children of different age groups from the Shelter Home and the centres. Visit to Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali turned out to be an attraction for the children who saw animals and forest for the first time. The caves at Kanheri held attraction of girls and boys too. 50 girls from Bandra and 30 boys and girls from South Mumbai got the opportunity to visit the National Park. Our Rural team coordinated tour to villages of Shahapur for the boys of Mahim

and Bandra centres as well as Shelter Home in the month of May to give them an understanding of the rural life, its beauty and problems.

Children of Mahim Centre want to stop child labour



The 'Anti Child Labour Day' was celebrated on April 30th by the kids of Mahim centre. The kids participated in a rally organized by our team members from the centre to St. Michael church. The kids prepared posters for the rally in advance and displayed them. They shouted slogans like "band karo band karo bal majdooori band karo", "Bal majdooori hatana hai, bachchon ko bachana hai". The Executive Director of Vatsalya joined the kids and team members of Mahim centre for the rally.

The rally was supported by the Police, parents and other NGOs of the area.

Performing Arts

Contemporary Dance Training : Two boys from the Shelter Home learnt Contemporary Dance in a workshop on from 6th to 13th May 2013 at Ravindra Natya Mandir organized by renowned actor and director of children's plays Meena Naik. Choreographers Phulwa Khamkar, Chetan and Dhanesh taught children contemporary dance, cartwheel along with techniques to maintain flexible body. The children said, *"We enjoyed the workshop very much. We got good opportunity to learn contemporary dance and we are now more confident. We like the certificate we got."*

Summer Blast 2013 : The Shailesh Ranjak Group of Star Dance Academy has been training our children for the last two months for the performance on May 19, 2013 at Ravindra Natya Mandir. Instructors Jaffer and Vijay selected 26 boys from the Shelter Home for the performance. The boys practiced diligently and performed excellently on the day before the audience. Swathi Mukherjee, Executive Director of Vatsalya, was felicitated for her exemplary work for the children.



Boys of the Shelter Home perform at Ravindra Natya Mandir

30 children from TVF were invited by NCPA to witness the dance performance on wheels by **AbilityUnlimited Foundation**, New Delhi on 7th June 2013. The artists of the group are physically handicapped, and hearing impaired but their performance left the audience spellbound.

Supernatural Entertainment Show by Lior Suchard : Raell Padamsee and her company invited 10 of our boys to the show by the internationally acclaimed mentalist and entertainer Lior Suchard at Tata Theatre, NCPA on May 11th. The show consisting of telepathy, mind reading, drama and comedy completely bowled over the boys and all of them want to learn to read people's mind. They were amazed and inspired at the same time to see the power of mind which on training can perform wonderful actions.

Interaction with students and organisations

Saiichha Group : Members of Saiichha Group led by Hitesh Deshmukh spent May 1st with the kids of Shelter Home of Vatsalya. The drawing competition on the theme of environment, fun games like throwing the ball into bucket, blowing away plastic bottles, dance competition and a sumptuous



Art & Craft session conducted by students of VJTI on April 17th at the Shelter Home



Children enjoy games conducted by Saiichha Group

lunch were part of the activities. Being the 'Maharashtra Day' a musical show of Marathi songs was presented by the group which the kids enjoyed by dancing on the numbers. 40 children from

The students of **B. D. Somani School** visited Vatsalya on 13th May. They formed six groups and taught different kind of craft to the children like origami, wax-painting. The **Guides of the 71st East Bombay Group** interacted with 40 children of the Vatsalya on May 29th as part of their Social Service Activity. The Guides taught them to make quilt card, chocolate balls and *sevpuri*. They also played few games with the children.

Interaction with Corporates



Clariant Chemical visits the Shelter Home

Clariant Chemicals supports Vatsalya's efforts :

The employees of Clariant Chemicals spent more than four hours interacting with the kids of the Shelter Home on May 15, 2013. The guests liked the confidence of our kids and were impressed with the aspirations of the children to become actor, dancer, doctor etc. The team gave Vatsalya donation in addition to educational kits to each child. Dr. Deepak Parekh, Managing Director - Programme said, *"It was an amazing experience and excellent performances by all the children*

were commendable".

SHL (India) Pvt. Ltd The CEB talent Measurement Solution celebrated Global Service Event with the children on May 17th, 2013 by playing, singing, dancing and eating with them. The volunteers showed power point presentation on personal hygiene. The children got school bags from the group at the end of the day. However, it was the treasure hunt set up the group for the children that made the day a fun-filled and memorable one for the 50 children of Shelter Home.

A visit of four professors from different universities of US was coordinated by the **Travel Corporation of India (TCI)** for orientation and interaction with children on May 13th.

Bank of America- associate Sodexo Facilities Management group visited the Shelter Home May 18th and donated food grains. They were impressed with the children's inquisitiveness and talent.

On 14th June children interacted with employees of **Liberty Videocon Insurance Company** in which they participated in the session on First Aid, Safety, Personal Hygiene and Safety during monsoon interspersed with music and dance. They donated a water purifier and medical kit for the children of the Vatsalya foundation. **"It has been an amazing experience being here and knowing so many beautiful lives"; "We came here for their entertainment but we were entertained ummed se zyada (beyond our expectations)"** are some of the reactions of the employees of the company.

Around 50 employees of **CITIGROUP** visited Vatsalya on June 22nd and spend time with the children of Shelter Home. They cut pictures from old newspapers and magazines and made posters on collage on civic responsibility. The themes included global warming, food for good health etc. The visit was coordinated by iVolunteer towards community service.

Energizing Sports



“It was different. I liked the place and the sports”, said Vikas Medhekar, 16 years, a boy from Shelter Home. He played all the sports and won a prize too in the Summer Olympics - a different format of sports event - organized by The Rotract Club of Jai Hind College on May 14th, 2013 at Priyadarshini Park, Napean Sea Road, Mumbai. Close to 100 girls and boys from Mahim and Bandra Contact centres and the Shelter Home spent the whole day playing different sports organized by the Jai Hind students.

The months of July, August and September are the time when studies and celebrations go hand in hand. Vatsalya celebrates *rakshabandhan* to inculcate the respect and love among girls and boys while Ganapati festival is a ten-day long period of praying for knowledge and wisdom. The Independence Day is celebrated at all centres on August 15th and successful students of Vatsalya are felicitated on Literacy Day on September. The staff and children would start their preparation towards these celebrations soon.

Warm regards,
The Vatsalya Foundation Team

(For further information please contact at info@thevatsalyafoundation.org)