

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

14 <sup>th</sup> Feb Children's Birthday	1
Mumbai Marathon 2016	2
Civil Society	2
Friends Visit To Vatsalya	2
Children Visit	3
Corporate Visit	3
Women Day Celebration	4
Gallery	5
Skill Training	6
Upcoming Event	6

*Vatsalya is a place full of action for children. There are activities that give them exposure to the society and life while some give them life skills that prepare them for their life ahead. We give you a glimpse of the action in the months of January to March 2016 in this issue of our newsletter Dhwani.*

## 14<sup>th</sup> February Children's Birthday

All the children of Vatsalya look forward to the celebration of their common birthday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Even the children who were part of Vatsalya years ago wish to come here on this day and renew their bond with the organization. This year we had one more reason to celebrate – the launch of the book written by Vatsalya's Director Swathi Mukherjee along with the children who are now part of the mainstream society. **'Smiling Hearts!'** was released by a five-year old girl Shabnam from Mahim Centre in the midst of the trustees, many friends and



the over 250 children. The success stories captured in the book were livened up by the children themselves sharing their experiences and expressing their gratitude to the organisation for making them a contributing member of the society. It was heart touching to see the older children inspiring the younger ones to write their own

destiny. The event was packed with lots of games and dances. Shifa and Vaibhav anchored the event beautifully interspersed with jokes and couplets.

Dina Frahm Rosenmeier from Denmark was present on the occasion on behalf of her friends Louise Stoten and Paul Thompson who sponsored the Birthday party for all. Lousie and Paul had visited Vatsalya earlier in January and support the Bandra centre.



## Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2016

*"One of the best birthdays I could give my daughter. Most well behaved and disciplined kids ever!!" said the extremely talented and versatile Manmeet Singh of Meet Bros, The Musical Duo. They have composed popular songs like Chittiyaa Kalaiyaan and Baby Doll. Manmeet and his wife Karishma celebrated their daughter's birthday with the children of Shelter Home Mahalaxmi on January 17th.*

*Manmeet's wife Karishma said, "...your kids are angels. Proud of myself for taking this excellent decision of celebrating my daughter's birthday here!"*

We participated in the fundraising campaign run by Standard Chartered Bank which culminated on January 17<sup>th</sup> in the Mumbai Marathon in which thousands of people run for a cause. During SCMM The Vatsalya Foundation's Cheer Zone on Marine Drive was a platform to project its work before the runners and cheering people. The children danced on different songs and entertained the runners passing by.



## Networking with Civil Society

The group from **Shrimad Rajachandra Divine Touch**, also called the Magic Touch, came to Mahalaxmi Shelter Home on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dipti Shah from the organization along with her colleagues and their kids interacted with our children. The children from Magic Touch sang songs for our children.



**Baroda Shakti** is the NGO formed and run by the spouses of top officials of Bank of Baroda. The group visited Vatsalya on February 24<sup>th</sup> and gave a special lunch to our kids. Promising to come back again to volunteer and support our children, one of the group members Mridulika said, *"Very nice and good job (done by Vatsalya). We are together forever..."*

Students of **EMDI Institute of Media & Communication** visited Vatsalya on March 11<sup>th</sup>. They organized cricket match for our children and gave away the trophy. They also performed a dance number for our children.

## Friends Visit to Vatsalya

**Harvey and Karen Badwal** with their twin daughters **Satia and Freya** from Derby, UK took the children to Kidzania in R City Mall, Ghatkopar on March 29<sup>th</sup>. 60 children from Mahalaxmi Shelter Home, Mahim and Bandra centres enjoyed the environment at Kidzania which offers more than 90 plus role-playing options as customer service, doctor, fire fighter, chef, pilot, radio host and so on. Children got so engrossed in the activities that they even forgot their lunch. Freya and Satia too enjoyed being with our children.



## Children's Visits



*'Book a Smile' truly brings smile to all our children. They offered the children and the opportunity to watch cricket match between West Indies and England live in Wankhede Stadium in T 20 World Cup on March 16<sup>th</sup>. They also showed our children the movie Chhota Bheem at on January 16<sup>th</sup> at PVR Lower Parel.*

### **CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP - CASA –CEMP (APTAR Group)**

The representatives of CASA-CEMP APTAR Group visited Vatsalya on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Meinard Arnold expressed on behalf of the group, *"...the children at Vatsalya have unique personalities and talents not only to make their own lives better but also to make the world a better place"*. Aptar Group supports higher education of children of Vatsalya since many years. Ramona and Arnold from the group visited Zaadghar village in Murbad on January 15<sup>th</sup> to see our work with school children. More than 1000 children and adults participated in the programme on *Makar Sankranti* in which the children performed for the guests.



### **Children had the opportunity to participate at various cultural fest and sports events**

- *'Sitaron Se Aagey – Sur Sangini'* at Rang Sharada
- Musical Show by differently-abled children at Sr. Andrew's Auditorium invited by **Anupam Kher Foundation**
- Annual Sports Day organized by **Powai Bengali Welfare Association** where Brishiti Mandal from Mahim won medals
- Inter NGO Sports Event organized by **Concern India Foundation** wherein they won a trophy as best disciplined team.

---

## Womens Day Celebration

More than 200 women of Zaadghar and surrounding villages participated in first ever Women's Day Celebration organized by Vatsalya. The Gram Panchayat Members and officials from Shahapur block were involved in the programme to make it meaningful as well as to reach out to large number of women. The Sarpanch Meena Bangara was the Chief Guest on the occasion while the officials Mr. Bhoys and Mr. Rathod gave information on women's empowerment and government schemes for women respectively. A short film was shown too. Programme ended with women's folk dance performance followed by lunch.



## Chance Auf Life, Germany

Rita Steinau and Catherina from Chance Auf Life, Germany visited Zaadghar in Murbad to inaugurate the computer and typing classes on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Over 300 school students participated in the programme. The guests distributed prizes to the students who had won the essay and drawing competitions.



## SESSION ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING

- English Speaking Classes are being conducted for the children of Mahalaxmi Shelter Home and Mahim Centre.
- Step Up dance Academy was engaged by Vatsalya to teach children dance in January and February. Children learned dance numbers which they presented during birthday celebrations and marathon stall.

# Gallery



Children enjoying at Kala Ghoda Festival with Cartoon Network characters



Capoeira class in progress



Art session with BD Somani International School Students



Children at The US Consulate



'Zootopia' Movie at PVR with Tata Sky team



Community lunch on 8<sup>th</sup> March at Zaadghar, Murbad

## THE VATSALYA FOUNDATION

Anand Niketan, King George  
V Memorial, Dr. E Moses  
Road, Mahalaxmi- West,  
Mumbai- 11, Maharastra

### Phone

022-24962115  
02224912352

### Email

[info@thevatsalyafoundation.org](mailto:info@thevatsalyafoundation.org)

**Striving every day to  
provide a better future for  
children in need of care  
and protection.**



We're on the Web!

[www.thevatsalyafoundation.org](http://www.thevatsalyafoundation.org)

Follow Us:



*Thank You to All  
Our Donors and  
Volunteers for your  
continued support*

## Skill Training



Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) conducted the catering course as part of the **Hunar Se Rozgar Tak, skill development scheme as approved by GOI Ministry of Tourism** for the youth. Four youth from Mahim and Bandra centres successfully completed the training and received certificates.



Indranil Mukherjee and his team from **VIBGYOR** organized an Art Workshop for our children on the occasion of Republic Day. VIBGYOR promised to sell the art work of children online to raise funds for Vatsalya.

## Networking

On 19<sup>th</sup> January NCPCR and Save the children had organized a seminar on "Good practice model on Care and Protection of street children" at New Delhi. Swathi Mukherjee Executive Director presented the organization's History, Intervention strategies and the community model. Representatives from **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and Save The Children** visited Vatsalya on March 1<sup>st</sup> to understand our work. The team visited Vatsalya as part of their study on the issue of children. Priti Mahara, Consultant from Karvy Insights visited Mahalaxmi Shelter Home as well as our Learning Centres in Shahapur to look into our intervention on unsafe migration of children. She took interviews and conducted focus group discussions of children, frontline workers, and senior programme management.

## Upcoming Event

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2016 - Mother's Day Celebration with Metaphor Experiential (Mother's Recipe)**

**Summer workshop to be conducted by professionals on Photography, Film-making, Clay modeling, Theatre.**