



# Apne Aap Women's Collective

Newsletter

January - April 2010

Issue 8

## Editorial

**Corporate Teams Run for AAWC at the Mumbai Marathon:** This year three teams from HSBC, Arshiya International and Bharat Serums and Vaccines supported us at the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon. Our girls cheered them on.

**7 Sisters Alumni visits AAWC:** Alumni from Vassar, Wellesley, Radcliffe, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke and Smith visited AAWC on a tour of India to learn more about the social issues facing Mumbai.

**Women's picnic to Trambakeshwar:** 40 women and 9 staff members went to Nasik to visit the Trambakeshwar Shivji Temple. This was a very important moment in the lives of our beneficiaries as they felt it was a chance for them wash away any sins, guilt and burdens they felt they may be carrying. Most of the women in this area are very religious.

My heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Yoshiko Haga, a regular donor from Kitakyusyu, Japan for visiting us immediately after a major Cancer surgery.

We highly appreciate our donors for having confidence and trust in our efforts for this community. We sincerely appreciate their concern. I always look forward to their suggestions.

**Mrs. Manju Vyas (Director)  
Apne Aap Women's Collective**



(Lions Club of Cuff Parade - held a remembrance party on Birth Anniversary of Late Smt Vilas Lokhandwala)

## AAWC Update



(Walk together - Mumbai Marathon participation)

- **Visitors from Japan:** Mrs. Mikiko Okubo and Mrs. Yoshiko Haga, two of our donors made their yearly visit to AAWC. They held a drawing and Origami workshop with the girls.
- **We are thankful to Mr. Shinich Lida, Consul, Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai for gracing our organisation with his visit with our Japanese guests.**
- **The Cuffe Parade Chapter of the Lions Club** donated AAWC a DVD Player to our organisation for our beneficiaries.
- **AAWC creates awareness at Tata Institute of Social Sciences:** TISS gave AAWC an opportunity to present the issue of human trafficking and the work we do at the centre for Labour Studies.
- **Attended a workshop on Issues and Scopes of Rehabilitation:** Our Director, Mrs. Manju Vyas attended a workshop organized by Prerna, another NGO that also works with the same population.
- **Salvation Army visits AAWC:** The workers from the Mizoram Branch of the Salvation Army visited us to learn about how we deal with daily outreach issues. Their feedback was that our outreach was very effective.
- **Staff Picnic to Alibaugh:** AAWC took its staff members for a picnic to the Awas Beach and to visit the Birla temple. The staff really enjoyed the outing, not to mention the boat ride! This trip was a good way for them to unwind from the crisis they deal with on a daily basis.
- **Challenges facing AAWC:** We have experienced great staff turnover due to staff marriages and illness. This has resulted in a temporary cut back in activities and events, as we have not had the man power to organize programs with the earlier frequency. However, we are in the process of overcoming this hurdle.

## Women's Update

- ❖ **Sankranti Celebration:** We had a small get together for the women, where they applied haldi to one another and fed each other the traditional tilgul ludoo. They also played some fun games.
- ❖ **Women's Day Celebration:** The evening kick started with a party that was followed by a presentation made LIC on life insurance plans for the women.



- ❖ **AAWC helps beneficiary against harassment:** One of our beneficiaries who had an account at Bank of India was being taken undue advantage of by the bank employee. Instead of depositing her money in the account he would use it for his personal work. She was unable to read and write and could not understand why he did this for several months. Upon approaching AAWC we had the employee re-deposit all her money into her account. We have warned the Bank about such acts in the future.



("Women's Day" Gift of LIC Policy)

- ❖ **Legal help provided to a woman wrongfully arrested:** The police conducted a raid on a brothel. The brothel owner escaped and instead they arrested an innocent sex worker and put her behind bars. They refused to release her, thinking that the brothel owner would come back for her. However, this did not happen and AAWC helped the innocent women get bail by putting her in touch with the appropriate lawyer.
- ❖ **Women's meeting on boarding home placement:** The mothers of the children, who were identified as urgently requiring boarding home placements, were invited for an orientation about what a boarding home is and what its rules and regulations are. They were also told how it will benefit their children to be there.
- ❖ **Women's visit to SOS Village:** Our mothers were taken to the Save Our Soul Boarding facility in Alibaugh to see the environment that their children will be placed in.
- ❖ **Distribution of Bananas to HIV+ women in the area:** AAWC has identified the need for better nutrition for HIV+ sex workers in the Falkland Road area. In order to supplement their medication and diet, we have started distributing bananas to them on a daily basis.



(Women's picnic at Trambakeshwar temple at Nashik)

## Sparrows Update

- ◆ **Kalaghoda Festival:** 22 sparrows attended the festival, where they participated in several workshops and attended a magic show.
- ◆ **Down to Earth Sports Day:** Participated in a Sports meet where 7 non profits were invited. Games taken included 1) Australia 2) Frisbee 3) Flip 4) Glass tube 5) Memory 6) Electric Shock 7) Pick up the ball



(Holi ' 2010)



(Sparrows attended a special workshop of life skill session)

- ◆ **Challenges with the daughters of Brothel Owners:** Often, we experience serious behavior problems from the daughters of brothel owners. They feel entitled and have the attitude that they do not have to work or study hard as their parents are affluent. AAWC works towards counseling the girls to adopt a healthier attitude. Recently, one of the daughters of a brothel owner that we had referred to a boarding home, was asked to leave as despite several warning her behavior was inappropriate. AAWC is making efforts to work more closely with such children, so that these issues do not occur in the future.
- ◆ **3 more Sparrows receiving Provisional :** We provide food and toiletries to some of the children in the area that come from extreme poverty to prevent them from developing health issues.



(This world is ours too - 10th standard girls Picture)

## Balwadi / Day Care center Update

- ❑ The Balwadi Children received a large quantity of soft toys from a donor in Japan.
- ❑ **Active English:** The Sparrows and Balwadi kids are watching the Active English channel to practice their English during the Summer vacations.
- ❑ **Volunteers:** French Psychiatrist, Marie comes once a week to work with the kindergarten children
- ❑ **Renovations:** The Balwadi room was recently renovated. The pantry was retiled and a gate was put so that kids don't run out.

Statistics	
No. of women new beneficiaries	27
No. of Sparrows new beneficiaries	6
No. of Kindergarten / Day care center new beneficiaries	20
No. of new Bank of Maharashtra account opened for women	10
No. of School admission	3
No. of women beneficiaries expired	4
No. of boarding referrals	2
No. of Night shelter referrals	5
Temporary night & day care referrals	2
Tuberculosis treatment provided to	2 women & 4 children
Sparrows provided with Spectacles	2
Sponsorship to new sparrows	3
Job employment help to	2 sparrows
Anti Retroviral Treatment help provided	1 woman

## Needs

- ❑ Teachers to teach Math, English and Science subjects through Marathi medium
- ❑ Consistent volunteers to help us in regular activities , office administrative work
- ❑ Notebooks & other educational material for 40 girls
- ❑ Good office chairs, 2 line phone instrument, Calculators
- ❑ Tally ERP 9 registered software for accounts, Anti Virus software for 5 office Computers.
- ❑ Shoe rack



(Day care center children enjoying at Kala Ghoda festival)

(Sankranti- till gud celebration)



(Children enjoying a clay modelling workshop)