



# Apne Aap Women's Collective

Newsletter

Issue 7

Sept. - December 2009

## Editorial

**Outreach extended up to Kamathipura:** Our organisation has completed 10 years in Aug '09. It has been a great learning process. We have learned a lot of lessons through our achievements and mistakes which has guided us in improving and sustaining our services. With this experience in hand, AAWC decided and started to extend and reach out to other underprivileged women of adjoining red light area of Kamathipura.

**Balwadi to Day Care Center:** Our field workers observed that many of our children were always left unattended near their homes after our Balwadi got over at 2 p.m. We realized that their mothers are practically not able to look after them physically. That's where we realized the need to start a proper day care center for these children.

In accordance our day care centre commenced from 1<sup>st</sup> September. It involves caring for our younger children from 10am until 5:30pm. In this way, we are able to ensure due attention and care for a longer time as well as provide relief to the mothers.

All our services are also expanding with increasing number of beneficiaries with the unconditional support of our donors, friends and well wishers. AAWC sincerely appreciates their trust and support in this matter.

- Mrs. Manju Vyas



Mrs. Cherie Blair at AAWC stall in conference

## AAWC Update

- ◆ Our staff attended a workshop run by Nasscom Foundation. The workshop included discussions about what IT problems NGOs were encountering, and what they needed in regard to IT to making their organization more effective and efficient.
- ◆ Project Coordinator attended Lawyers Collective's monthly Meetings in September and December.
- ◆ September meeting was about the need for a change in the laws relating to rape and sexual assault. It was conducted in a very interesting and informative way.

December topic was "Understanding Pain: Palliative Care in India". The guest speaker was Dr. M. R. Rajagopal, Founder of Pallium India, an organisation fighting for needs of the patients in need of pain relief and palliative care. Palliative Care is not given much thought or efforts; but thanks to Pallium India, more and more awareness is generated about this issue.

- ◆ Dandiya celebration with our sparrows was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> October. After dancing, they had a feast of delicious food and desserts.
- ◆ On Joy of Giving week, a Dental Camp was organized at our centre by Victory Arts Foundation



Christmas Celebration- Gift distribution by Mr. Allan

of Mr. Shiamak Davar. It is all about caring for their **SMILES!**

- ◆ As a part of regular health check up of our children, we had a Medical Camp ...we also have prepared a diet chart for our children in consultation with the doctor, to supplement their nutritional needs.
- ◆ It was Diwali on 14<sup>th</sup> October... the festival of lights brought along lots of fun crackers and sweets...we are extremely thankful to Mrs. Sharayu Daftary and Ms. Anuradha Welfode, for generously donating special Diwali snacks and sweets to all the sparrows and staff.
- ◆ Dr. Levin from Mayo Clinic USA, who visited us earlier this year, kindly donated 5 flat screen computers. They were very well received, and have been put to very good use by our staff and children.
- ◆ AAWC participated in the Kala Ghoda Festival during the last week of October, which was a wonderful opportunity to spread a word about us. Sparrows enjoyed participating in different sessions of craft, pottery and Magic Show. They enjoyed magic show and wizard the most.
- ◆ We participated in a "Women Mean Business Conference" at Hyatt Regency organized by Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. The conference was attended by women achievers from all over the world. It was a truly Inspiring atmosphere. We got an opportunity to put up a stall and showcase our work.
- ◆ Like every year, Ms. Antoinette Maclachlan visited us for her "Calender Project" with our sparrows. She raises funds for us from the calendars and post cards made by our sparrows' drawings. Can log on to her website [www.thaishiworks.com](http://www.thaishiworks.com)
- ◆ Orientation about AAWC and the Community given to St Xavier's College and Nirmala Niketan College students.
- ◆ Siddharth Kara, a well known author, came to visit us along with an American filmmaker. They interviewed our field workers for a documentary film they are producing on sex trafficking of women and children in India and Nepal.

## Women's Update

- ◆ Women's meeting was held for new members to brief them about the various services and support they can avail by becoming a member of AAWC.
- ◆ Through our consistent efforts Sugar and Palm Oil are now available on Ration Cards to our beneficiaries.
- ◆ We put up a fun stall at a Fun Fair organized by Perna, All the stalls had fun and games for the women; gifts and prizes were given too!
- ◆ We regularly battle with an issue that's quite rampant amongst the community that we work with – 'Unplanned and Medical Termination of Pregnancy'. Women beneficiaries are counseled consistently about consequences of unplanned pregnancy, contraceptives and consequences, to help them understand that the unplanned child is vulnerable to all kinds of abuse and always left to suffer.
- ◆ Recently we have introduced making PAN cards for identity proof of women. However, we are facing difficulty as women are repeatedly changing their residence.
- ◆ AAWC have been regularly attending Rationing Kruti Samiti meetings which is actively working for Right to Food. They have good network amongst the Rationing Department and other NGOs.



Women's meeting

## Sparrows and Balwadi

- ◆ We took our sparrows to visit Ganpati Mandals around the Khetwadi area to explore the creative aspects of an artist who creates Ganpati Idols. Also the history behind Ganpati festival started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- ◆ One of our sparrows who successfully completed beautician course from Seva Sadan attended a make-up workshop conducted by Global Fashion Company 'Chanel'. She has started her career with a reputed beauty parlour.
- ◆ We took sparrows on our yearly picnic. The girls over 10 years of age went to Water Kingdom, and the younger ones went to Essel World. It was great fun and relaxation for everyone. A fantastic day to cherish for long.
- ◆ Two of our sparrows got relief after prolonged dental treatment.
- ◆ Mrs. Kamal Panju, a sincere well wisher of AAWC conducted art classes for sparrows for a week during their vacation... a different theme was given to them each day...it was lovely to see colours everywhere...
- ◆ Procter & Gamble, as a part of their community initiatives organized a session for the sparrows on "Menstrual Cycle, Hygiene and Changes in the body and mind". It was an opportunity to clarify many of their doubts.
- ◆ Later on, there was a session on "Menopause" which was attended by their mothers.



Sparrows on yearly picnic - Esselworld and Water Kingdom

- ◆ Mr. Sudarshan Loyalka, Managing Trustee is lovingly called Sudu Mama by the sparrows. His birthday was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm as always.
- ◆ Our volunteer teacher Mr. Alan Liversidge from Australia, who taught English to our sparrows earlier, now on Saturdays, teaches computers to our girls.
- ◆ This year Children's Day was celebrated with lot of fun activities and competitions. It was a great delight to see their team spirit and competitiveness. As a special treat for Children's Day, pizzas were ordered from Dominos, along with many other food delicacies and Ice Cream.
- ◆ Down-To-Earth NGO organized a cultural evening for children of different NGOs, in which 6



Sparrows Dandiya



Magic Show by a sparrow on Children's Day Celebration



of our sparrows performed a skit. These girls were selected through auditions and have been practicing for the same since 6 months.

- ◆ 3 of our sparrows, who have been undergoing dance training under Victory Arts Foundation, were chosen to perform at "Winter Funk", a dance extravaganza organized by Shriamak Davar.
- ◆ On 24<sup>th</sup> December, it was our Christmas Party and we gave gifts to all our sparrows. Also it was an important day as we presented the trophies for "Teacher of the Year" and "Sparrow of the Year"; it was a proud moment for the 8 sparrows who received trophies for Best Performance during the year.

"Christmas is the time to give".....we are extremely thankful to Mr. Mr. Alan Liversidge, who collected loads of gifts from the children of his school D S B international School and donated to our children as Christmas Gifts...

Also, our gratitude to Mikiko from Japan, who sent us soft toys in bulk as Christmas gifts for all our girls and balwadi children...

- ◆ Our sparrows and staff enjoyed a Christmas Party, organized by Victory Arts Foundation where we were specially invited.
- ◆ Our Balwadi Children had their picnic at Ranibaug!! The children were all excited in being taken outside their classroom...more so to see animals, which they have seen only in books!!



Balwadi and day care children's picnic

- ◆ Three sparrows were removed from a Boarding Home by the respective mothers due to some misinformation spread within the community. AAWC were able to reassure the mothers after tireless counseling. The sparrows have since been re-admitted to the Boarding Home.
- ◆ AAWC attended and got lot of praises in a grand event named "Shining Stars" which was a talent hunt with a different motive for the children of different NGOs. On the occasion of Children's Day, Pragati has organized it.

<b>Number of new beneficiaries</b>	
Women	- 44
Sparrows	- 13
Balwadi	- 15
<b>Number of new accounts</b>	
Apni Bachat	- 44
Bank of Maharashtra	- 11
<b>Number of New Ration Cards issued</b>	
	6



Sparrows Diwali

**Needs**

- 1) Volunteers to work with
  - a) Children
  - b) To help us in documentation and quarterly newsletter in English (Need to attend weekly meetings on Saturdays from 11.30am to 2.30 pm)
- 2) Teachers to teach from 6<sup>th</sup> std and above Science, Maths, English and Social Studies for Marathi medium students.
- 3) Website designing and update

On behalf of our organisation we pay our deepest homage to 4 women beneficiaries who passed away in the last quarter due to illness.