



# moksha

THE IMPACT INDIA NEWSLETTER: ISSUE NO.68

February 2009

## Impact “unwrapped”

Impact India Foundation’s(IIF) book, titled “Creating Rainbows”, which is all about Impact’s humble yet stimulating, learning, growing and fulfilling curve over the past 25 years is hot off the printing press!

Many friends and well wishers urged IIF to tell all, especially Anil Kapoor, Managing Director - FCB DRAFT ULKA, Mumbai, who extended more than moral support by lending the services of his agency for design and layout of the Book. Through this book, we have shared our experiences- some frustrating, some outrageous but always encouraging, as is appropriately reflected in the book’s title.

At a time when everywhere around us, the motivation is low and the resolve is shaken, the book plainly narrates how a determined will can overcome any hurdle.

We hope that our simple book, will bring home that spirit...as it also did with VAKILS & SONS Pvt Ltd, who very generously supported us for the meticulous production and printing.



*Bimal Mehta-Executive Director, VAKILS & SONS Pvt. Ltd holding the book*

## An eye for all....



*Zelma Lazarus, CEO-IIF, at the inauguration of the Mobile Clinic in Nasik*

When Impact launched its first and much-needed Diagnostic Mobile Clinic in November 2006, we knew that it would go on to be another revolutionary tool to provide better health care facilities to the poor and disabled people in rural areas.

At present three buses are in service in IIF’s Community Health Initiative (CHI), which comprise the most backward areas in the seven blocks of Thane district. The success of these buses prompted Volkart Foundation to donate three more new buses. In keeping with IIF’s mission to partner with various agencies and replicate projects, the new buses will be shared with like-minded organisations.

After an extensive hunt, Impact short-listed Sightsavers, an international NGO, as the most suitable partner. Sightsavers, have decided to extend the scope of work to include ear treatments under IIF’s guidance. Sightsavers are collaborating with Tulsi Eye Hospital for patients who require any further complicated and surgical treatments.

On 28 January 2009, Zelma Lazarus, CEO of IIF, inaugurated the first of the three new donated Buses.



*Major Zarekar(left) Chief Executive Director with Dr. Swati Zawar-Deputy Medical Director of Tulsi Eye Hospital and K.R. Sreenath-CEO of Volkart Foundation next to the Mobile Clinic*

## A will to share

On 17 October 2008, 90 year old Frau Irmgard Janssen, a German national quietly passed away in Bremen.

We never did meet her nor did we make her acquaintance. But we wish we had because what we do know is that she was a lady who cared for those who suffered and wanted to reach out and help.



*Nitin Bhagwat- Executive Director, FCB DRAFT ULKA with a copy of the Book*

Continued on Pg 2: ▶

Frau Irmgard Janssen bequeathed Euro 10,000 towards Impact India! Our immediate reaction was one of surprise followed by curiosity all rolled into one.

Though we personally did not know Frau Janssen, she undoubtedly was aware of our work and ensured that her wish to help the underprivileged be fulfilled by Impact India.

While we are honoured to receive this unexpected gift, we are also conscious of the fact that we have to live up to the promise she has entrusted upon us.

Thankful and deeply touched, we do not wish to mourn the passing away of Frau Janssen as we will celebrate her life through our work...

## From Italy with love

When Thomas K. Joseph, moved on to Italy in 2000 after six years with Impact India, he never parted ways with IIF even after 8 years away from us. Like most Impactians, he too periodically stayed in touch and even organised fundraisers.

Early this year we received Euro 550 as a result of his efforts. Little children, all students of Gozzi and Tartini School, Italy, affectionately donated their pocket money and time - painting messages on swatches which are sown into colourful quilts.

Most of the messages highlighted peace and love for the children of India while others showed the Lifeline Express(LLE) as the train of health and hope.

We feel their warmth and affection...

Next Column: (Top to bottom)  
The students from Gozzi and Tartini school with the patchwork quilts in the background  
Center and Below: (Next column)  
Message of Peace and another of Love for the LLE



## And from Austria

Regine Sampat Kumar, an Austrian national and an old friend of Impact, also keeps us in mind ever so often. Two years ago she produced an audio CD and gave voice to the Mahatma's words from our Gandhi Book.

The 27 minute CD was compiled by Regine and gifted to us for wider circulation of Gandhiji's wisdom.

The words are most appropriate for the strife we face in the current intolerant times. The CD makes for an appropriate gift and is available at our Head Office priced at a reasonable cost of Rs. 50 for anyone who wishes to imbibe Gandhian ways.

Not content with her contribution, Regine recently published an article titled- "Lifeline Express-The Train of Mercy in India" for an Austrian newspaper. We hope that Regine's enthusiasm is infectious!



Adolescent girls wait in a queue as they are tested for hemoglobin by the Auxiliary Nurse

## Fortifying women

Nearly 57% of Indian women are anaemic due to lack of proper nutritious food, of which women in the rural areas of Impact's CHI have a Hb level of less than 10mg.

With anaemic women being at a greater risk of miscarriage and bleeding to death in childbirth, IIF has initiated an Hemoglobin estimation programme for adolescent girls to prevent and control anaemia at an early age. They are provided with Deworming and Iron and Folic Acid(IFA) tablets with a follow up after six months. This helps to monitor the health of would-be mothers and reduce risk to mothers and their infants at the time of delivery.

In addition Impact is implementing a special project to control and prevent malnutrition among the tribals by focusing on social factors like early marriage, breast feeding, spacing between children, personal hygiene, sanitation and the importance of immunization. The health messages are communicated through street theatre and folk art.

## Wat-er relief

Most villagers in the Thane District where Impact is working face water shortage. With limited wells few and far between villages, there are two hamlets in Wada - Jambulpada and Umdyachapada which particularly face acute water scarcity as they have only two sources of water in common between them. A dilapidated well and a spring which supplies water only in monsoons.

Come December the 200 odd villagers in both these hamlets begin facing water woes. In partnership with SHARE, Impact is implementing a Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) project to address the water needs of the villagers.

It is proposed that the Government constructed well is to be repaired and the spring will be cordoned off to ensure safe and clean drinking water.

In most rural areas, all that is needed is this simple restorative measure, to extend the life of the water source beyond the monsoons...



*The well in Jambulpada in need of repair*



*Construction of a check dam*

## IIF include Dental Care



*Doctors treat within and outside the Dental van*



In our previous issue we mentioned the need to include sustained oral hygiene as part of the CHI. On 6th - 7th January 2008, IIF organized a dental camp at the Dagripada Ashramshala (residential school) in collaboration with the Government Dental College (GDC) of Mumbai.

All 462 children in the age group of 6 to 16 years and the school staff were checked and treated for various dental diseases. The young GDC team of five dental surgeons was so motivated, that they worked late upto 11 p.m. on both days to ensure treatment of all 462 children which included scaling, filling, extractions and general treatment.

We thank Dr. Mansing Pawar, Dean of GDC, Mumbai who made available a well equipped Dental Van with state-of-the-art instruments and his dedicated team of doctors for making the project such a success. The Dental College has now agreed to conduct similar camps to cover all the 62 ashramshalas in the CHI !

## And also Orthopaedic Camps

IIF is expanding its interventions beyond polio in the realm of orthopaedic treatment. With many cases being cited, Dr. Athani, Director of the All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AIIPMR), Mumbai has agreed to partner with IIF to screen and subsequently operate patients at the orthopaedic camps in the CHI.

The first camp is to be held on 21st February 2009 at the Government Sub-District Hospital in Dahanu. The camp will identify the need for aids and appliances, minor surgical procedures, multi-stage operations which need extensive follow-up and counseling.

Once identified the AIIPMR will perform the required procedures on patients at the hospital within a week for prompt treatments.

## After 25 years we are 19 and big!

From the 1st to the 4th of March 2009, the International Federation of Impact Organizations (IFIO) will meet for their fifth conference in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The IFIO now comprises 19 members from around the globe to include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Denmark, East Africa, East Mediterranean, Geneva-Impact Global Programme, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, UK, US and India!

Together the IFIO members represent nearly half of the world's population!

## Rural trek for Wadhvani family

Sunil Wadhvani, IIF Trustee residing in New York, made time to visit the Embur Ashramshala, which is one of the most neglected, during his brief stay in Mumbai. On 2 January 2008, Sunil along with his wife Nita and two teenaged children, Rohan and Shalini, were accompanied by the Impact team, and spent a day experiencing the simple and humbling lifestyle of IIF's extended family in rural Maharashtra.



## Q & A about the train



The GK question about Lifeline Express

While Impact India may not be a household name, it's important to us that we are known to those who matter-especially in rural areas where we are focused. So when a leading daily published a General Knowledge query pertaining to the Lifeline Express, we were pleasantly surprised. It appears that our "track" record is gradually preceding us... and we are happy to receive a little publicity to enhance our work!

Outside a villager's home, Sunil Wadhvani with wife Nita (in red) and son Rohan to his right, daughter Shalini in front- accompanied by IIF's George (extreme left) and Neelam

A toddler being bathed in a cooking vessel, outside her home

## Rotary cares

The Rotary Club has a reputation for supporting causes for the needy and deprived persons. On 21st December 2008, the Andheri Rotary Community Corps. (RCC) organised a day-long health programme.

In the midst of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel was IIF's mobile diagnostic clinic which attracted a lot of attention amongst those who needed examination for critical eye impairments.

## Our heartfelt thanks to

*Mrs. Mahmooda Bhimji  
Mr. & Mrs. Shravan K. Jain  
Meenal Kshirsagar  
Neelam Kshirsagar  
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.  
Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services  
Dr. Vikram Umedshai Maniar  
Rati Mishra  
Preeti  
Rotary Club Mumbai  
Kizhakekuttu Joseph Thomas  
Mr. A.H. Tobaccowala  
The Smile Train, New York  
Ammada Trust*

Cut here

**For Rs. 1,000**

**One person will have sight restored through Cataract Operations on the Lifeline Express**

**Or**

**Seven children will have their vision corrected**

**Or**

**Three persons will have lifelong disability prevented**

**Or**

**Any contribution will go towards the Community Health Initiative**

**All Donations are 100% Tax Free**

Attached is cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_ For Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

Favouring **Impact India Foundation** drawn on ( Name of Bank )

Kindly send the receipt at the following address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### IMPACT INDIA FOUNDATION



Nhava House, 65 Maharshi Karve Road, Mumbai 400 002. India  
Tel. : (91 22) 6633 9605 / 6 / 7 Fax: (91 22) 2201 0594  
E-mail : [impactindia@mtnl.net.in](mailto:impactindia@mtnl.net.in) / [iifimpactindia@gmail.com](mailto:iifimpactindia@gmail.com)  
Web : [www.impactindia.org](http://www.impactindia.org)

Editor : Zelma Lazarus.  
Photographs : Neelam Kshirsagar  
Text and Design : Batull Tavawala