REACHING HAND

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www.reachinghand.org

Registered as Charitable Trust Vide No. 8546/95-96 Bangalore Karnataka

ANNUAL REPORT

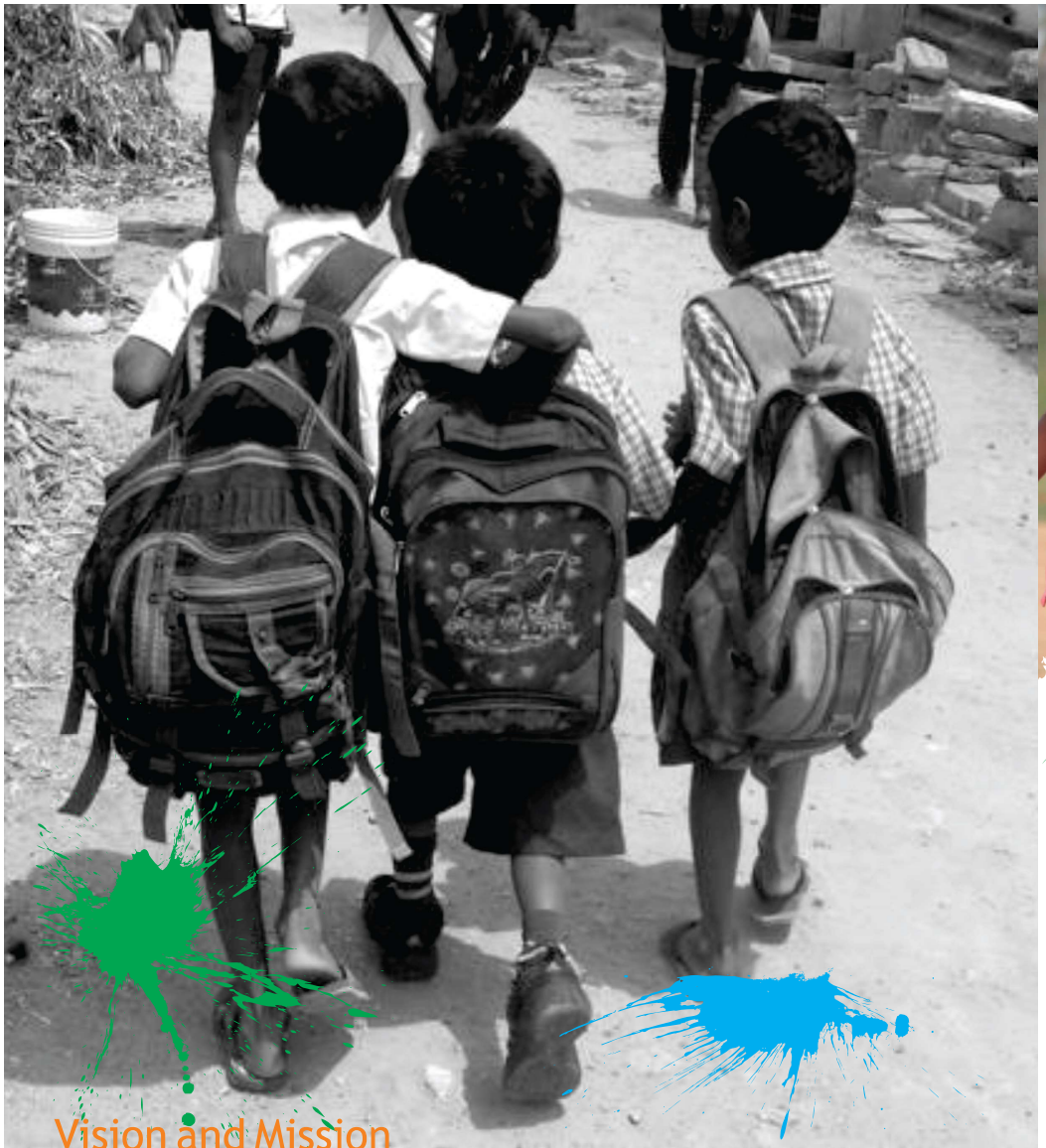
2013-14!



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Vision and Mission

To transform todays destitute into tomorrow's leaders by ushering holistic transformation in economically and socially challenged individuals, thus impacting communities.

To build the lives of children at risk
To care for the sick and broken-hearted
To serve the helpless and neglected by equipping and empowering individuals and communities.

Our foundation is to build, care for, and serve our society .



Message from the Founder

Namaskar!

Reaching Hand is on a mission to provide hope - *the hope of a better & dignified life* - to the less privileged around us.

Our distinction begins with our motto: ***Build, Care, Serve.*** Today's children are the leaders of tomorrow, and it is a joy to see our children at New Home taking their first mini-steps in that direction. The Women Empowerment Programs are being extremely effective in enabling them to stand on their own feet. The Scholarship & Government School Adoption programs have set benchmarks marginalized /vulnerable women improving the lives of the *leaders of tomorrow.* Our goal is to reach out to 10,000 children by 2015.

On behalf of the Board, staff, & beneficiaries of Reaching Hand, I'd like to thank you - our partners - for standing with us!

We have a long way to go - to build on the foundations laid and expand our reach. As you turn these pages, I invite you to join hands with us, help us meet our immediate requirements and leave a lasting legacy of hope for someone around us!

V.M Samuel

Our Programs

Reaching Hand has five main programs that are built around the needs of underprivileged women and children, to transform 'Today's Destitute into Tomorrow's Leaders'. We design our projects to meet with and align to our core vision and mission .

The New Home

Reaching Hand's New Home offers children at risk safety, care, shelter and new opportunities. Working closely with the Department of Women and Child Development, we work to a very high standard to provide children the best education, living standards and individual attention according to their needs. There are 46 children living in the New Home, all have suffered their own small tragedy early on in life, such as the loss of parents, forced child labour, and abandonment.





Case Study: Tanu and Shashi

In February, the New Home welcomed Tanu into the family. Tanu is six years old and a bright, playful boy. Tragically, Tanu lost his mother and suffered terrible injuries when they were electrocuted in an accident.

Tanu was left with 40% burns across his body and lost his left leg. After spending two years recovering in hospital, he came to Reaching Hand for a new start and to be reunited with his beloved brother, Shashi.

The boys' story touched many hearts. Abandoned by their father and relatives after the incident, Shashi regularly met with Tanu to share snacks and support him through recovery. Due to Tanu's injuries, the brothers were at risk of being separated. This is when Reaching Hand stepped in to ensure they could remain together.

Case Study: Maria Blessy

Blessy was just 2 years old when she was left at the New Home. Her father had passed away in an accident. Forced to remarry, Blessy's mother had no choice in the matter but to leave her daughter behind. Since joining the family, Maria Blessy has grown into a very bright and happy child.

She excels in academics, sports, acting and dancing. An above average student, her teachers are very proud of her and at New Home she is a role model to many of the younger girls.



Government School Adoption Program (GSAP)

We are partnered with two Government Higher Primary Schools, K. Channasandra, and Ramamurthy Nagar. We strive to improve over 400 school children's educational experience by improving their surroundings and infrastructure to ensure a safe learning environment, quality education and improved academic performance along with extracurricular activities and character development.

Reaching Hand works closely with the School staff, offering advice and training on effective management of students and classes. We assist the children by providing them necessary learning equipment such as free uniforms, shoes, textbooks and stationery.

This year we adopted GHPS Ramamurthy Nagar, a struggling school situated in the heart of Ambedkar Nagar slums (around 1500 households). Initially we have held various clean-up and painting projects in the school, cleaning the classrooms and outside space and painting the school.







Women's Empowerment Program

Our Women's Empowerment initiative aims to enable marginalized women in Kaggalipura(30Km from Bangalore) to become self-sufficient so that they can contribute to their family income, earning them a place of respect and pride in and out of the home. For some, the training provides them enough experience to seek employment with small dress makers or factories, whilst others often set up their own small enterprise on a part time basis.

This initiative currently trains rural women over a six month period in tailoring and embroidery for free. We also conduct workshops on life skills and safety awareness. This year 12 women have found employment directly through this training

We have a new opportunity in the village of Attibele, near Hosur where we can impact more women who will benefit from the training course and workshops, and from the beginning of the new year Reaching Hand shall be relocating the project there!

Case Study:Javeeda and Shahida

Javeeda and Shahida were in the same batch in the tailoring program. Both women were only educated at a basic level as children, as they did not have the chance to continue their studies. Now married, Shahida's husband works part time at a sweet shop in the village, earning only up to 200Rs. per day. Javeeda's family relies mainly on the Ragi (a type of grain) they are provided as payment for her husband's work on a farm.
Both women want to contribute to the income so they can provide for their children and keep them in school. After completing the course, a brother bought the women a sewing machine which is kept in the house. They share the machine and work together to make dresses and blouses.

Javeeda talks about why she likes the program - “Anywhere else would have charged a small sum for this training, but Reaching Hand gave us this opportunity for free, even including all the materials and equipment”
“Everyone has a very high regard for Gowri (the teacher) - she is very patient and kind hearted, and is someone you can approach at any time for help”



Scholarships for Underprivileged Children

This year we have given financial support to 65 students so they may benefit from quality education. These youth often do not have the means to continue their education, often suffering stresses both financially and emotionally from within their families. We're proud of the numerous children who have had an opportunity to pursue their academic interests as a direct result of the scholarship provided by Reaching Hand. We do not believe in token acts of help, but we provide substantial amounts to ensure that these children receive the best!

Case Study:Smitha Susan

"Reaching Hand has been a backbone for me. Helping me in place of my father since he passed. I am very grateful for it. I will surely bring fame to Reaching Hand one day for the support they have given to me."
Smitha is currently in her 2nd PUC at St. Vincent Palloti. Her father sadly passed away four years ago, and her mother works as a cook and cleaner in several houses. They were unable to support the costs of her education. Now, Smitha aspires to become a Chartered Accountant and wants to provide a quality life to her family.



Support for HIV/AIDS Affected Children and their Families



Reaching Hand assists HIV/AIDS affected children in Bijapur with monthly provisions of nutritious food for themselves and their families. Each month we support 25 children and their families by distributing these necessities, and provide professional medical advice on general health, healthy eating, personal hygiene and cleanliness. This program caters to the need of the family and communities through education, encouragement and diet. Through this, we also impart programs in education, medical and livelihood.

The Feeding Program leads to an increased level of hope and dignity for recipients, increasing their capacity to effectively fight against poverty. Reaching Hand also conducts 5 Health Camps per year in this area giving medical checks to these families and those in need from the surrounding area, this also raises awareness of the key issue.

Achievements

Our Children are becoming LEADERS!



The 7th of February was a particularly proud moment for us all at Reaching Hand. Chuimayo, one of our first boys to join us over 9 years ago graduated from 10th Standard as Football Captain and Head Boy of St. Michaels School. He led the students into the hall, and our New Home staff watched as he passed on the flame to next year's students... an emotional moment for many! Chuimayo has proved that regardless of your background, past and hardship, you can succeed in life... as we are sure he will as he continues to carry the fire inside him! All the best to Chuimayo, who is now looking forward to college!

Sporting Success

At Reaching Hand we value sports development for our children, as it is proven to encourage, and enhance their natural abilities. Sport also reaches out to our children regardless of their backgrounds and inhibitions, and with our guidance can build on their self-respect, self-esteem and empowerment. We always encourage our children to partake in physical activities, and it clearly pays off. This year, our New Home children have enjoyed numerous achievements at school in sports!

Some of our boys participated in the State Level Olympics; winning 1st prize in the 100m relay and Bronze in the 300m medley relay.

Our children really shone at the Athletics meet in the beginning of November, when they can home with a total of 55 medals: 26 Gold, 21 Silver and 8 Bronze! The children participated in all the sports, from cricket and football to long jump and shot put!



Volunteers

This year we focused on volunteer engagement Volunteers from HCL, JP Morgan, EMC, Goldman Sachs, Adobe, Lokko Sports, ANZ, and Citrix also contributed their time engaging in activities both indoors and outdoors, from teaching essential safety tips to our rural ladies, to clean up and painting programs in our New Home and Government schools.

2)Arjun Bir- Founder of India Forward Team



"As part of the India Forward team, I have had the privilege of working with and visiting NGOs and children's homes across Bangalore, but not a single experience compares to those that I have had at Reaching Hand.

That difference, according to me, begins with the vision that guides the organization. Reaching Hand doesn't aspire to be an orphanage; it aspires to be a home. […] The children have something that I have not come across anywhere else, they are inspired, and are not afraid to dream; and the credit for that goes to the team that runs the organization. The commitment to ensuring that the children are taken care of and happy is unlike that I have seen anywhere else. […] While my words might not be able to capture it, an encounter I had with one of the kids comes closest to representing the value of the work the Reaching Hand team are doing: When we asked Manju what the most memorable moment of his life so far has been, he replied "When I came to the New Home".For myself and several of my team members at India Forward, ***Reaching Hand is no longer just an organization we work with, but a family that we have become a part of."***









Governance and Management

Reaching Hand is governed by the Trust Deed, which specifies its objectives and powers. Our governing board consists of eight members and is directed towards the mission of creating real and lasting changes in the lives of marginalized children and women by initiating specific programs.
The Board facilitates and oversees the management team as it serves, and protects the long term interest of all stakeholders. The Board bears ultimate responsibility for Reaching Hand achieving the purposes for which it exists. The five main tasks of the Board are :

- Policy formulation
- Strategic thinking
- Management supervision
- Fundraising
- Accountability to the organization's supporters, donors, staff and those who are connected together by its vision.

Responsibilities of the Board

- Determine the organisation's mission, purpose and strategic direction and the policies that will best enable the achievement of these.
- Provide strategic leadership through constructive challenging of key assumptions and strategies and management views and proposals
- Approve the annual programs plan and budgets
- Ensure there are mechanisms for hearing the view of key stakeholders
- Ensure high levels of organizational accountability and transparency
- Provide necessary directions to the management
- Actively engage in raising funds

Board Members

Member	Position
Mr V.M Samuel	Founder/Chairman
Mr K. Thomas Saju	Secretary
Mr T.M. Santosh	Treasurer
Mr D.V. Krishnan	Trustee
Mr Abey Thomas	Trustee
Mr Fenwick Thomas	Trustee
Dr George Cherian	Trustee
Srinivas Raghavan	Trustee

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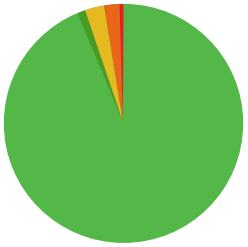
Finances

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2014.

Reaching Hand ensures the best possible benefits to all of its participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries by maintaining proper financial management. The ability to utilise the funds effectively is owed to having a layered structure of monitoring and auditing processes, as well as the Board of Trustees directly reviewing the financial plans and funds utilization. The most important and effective factor for obtaining and managing the funds is through transparency and ethical practices.

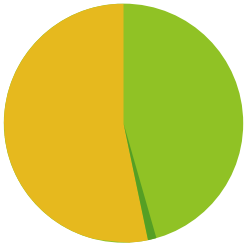
ASSETS

	Rs. Lakhs	%
Land & Building	328.78	91.14
Furniture & Fixtures	2.93	0.81
Vehicles	6.52	1.81
Deposits	15.55	4.31
Current Assets	5.34	1.48
Others	1.62	0.45
Total	**360.74**	100



LIABILITIES

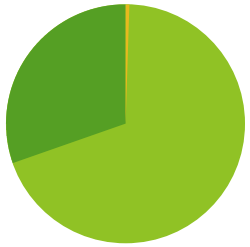
	Rs. Lakhs	%
Unsecured Loan	165.50	45.87
Vehicle Loan	3.34	0.93
General Fund	191.90	53.2
Total	**360.74**	100



INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014.

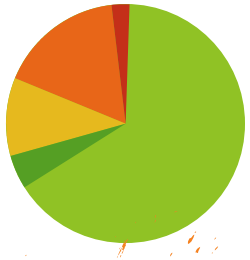
INCOME

	Rs. Lakhs	%
Indian Sources	111.61	69.77
Foreign Sources	47.94	29.96
Others	0.43	0.27
Total	**159.98**	100



EXPENDITURE

	Rs. Lakhs	%
Programme	96.98	60.62
Upkeep & Maintenance	6.95	4.34
Promotional	15.59	9.76
Administration	24.18	15.11
Depreciation	2.67	1.67
Total	**146.37**	**91.5**
Surplus	13.6	18.5



AUDITORS

M/S CHARLES PRABAKAR & ASSOCIATES,
HITANANDA-2, 1ST FLOOR, 48, LAVELLE ROAD,
BANGALORE-560001

Get Involved!

If you would like to support Reaching Hand you can contribute in a variety of ways, here are some ideas! -

Donate

- Directly by giving cash, cheque, or via our website and online platforms - Global Giving (USA and UK) and Ammado
- Materials, resources and provisions for our needy.
- Sponsor a program, event, a child.

Volunteer

- Participate in our fund-raising and promotional events
- Share your knowledge and skills in training our staff, women or children

Fundraise

- Raise funds for Reaching Hand by holding an event of your own
- Get sponsored by family, friends and colleagues for taking part in any other challenge or fundraiser and donate the money raised to Reaching Hand

Spread the word!

- Share our Facebook page, and encourage others to learn about our cause! https://www.facebook.com/ReachingHand
- Get in touch with your circles and promote Reaching Hand!

Search for **Reaching Hand** On:

Highlights


Learning from the Pro's



TCS 10K Marathon 2013


Joy of Giving Week


Sleeping Under the Stars


Behind the Scenes Experience at BIAL!


Goals to Goodness II



