Find us:

REACHING HAND
Registered Charitable Trust Vide No. 8546/95-96 Bangalore, Karnataka

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REACHING HAND
Registered Charitable Trust Vide No. 8546/95-96 Bangalore, Karnataka

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

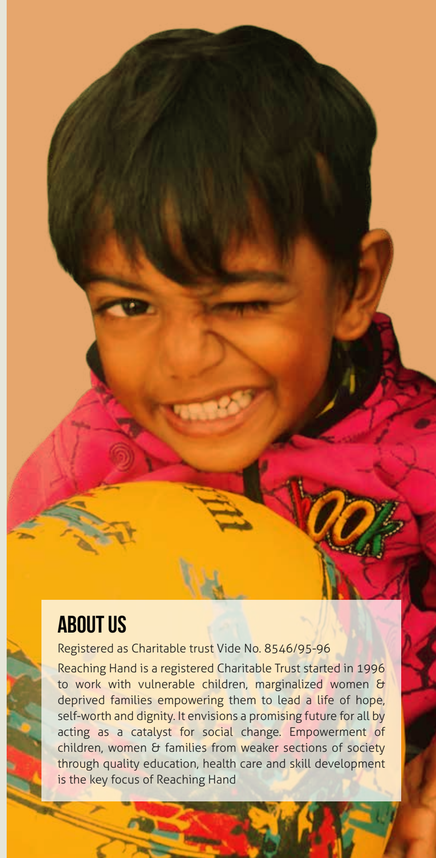
"To Empower communities globally, bringing hope of a better tomorrow"

OUR MISSION

Create opportunities through innovative strategies across our focus communities

Connect with beneficiaries through life-transforming engagements

Collaborate with like-minded partners across the globe to raise volunteers and resources



ABOUT US

Registered as Charitable trust Vide No. 8546/95-96

Reaching Hand is a registered Charitable Trust started in 1996 to work with vulnerable children, marginalized women & deprived families empowering them to lead a life of hope, self-worth and dignity. It envisions a promising future for all by acting as a catalyst for social change. Empowerment of children, women & families from weaker sections of society through quality education, health care and skill development is the key focus of Reaching Hand

OUR TRUSTEES

Reaching Hand is governed by the Trust Deed, which specifies its objectives and powers. Our governing body 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 innovative programs. The Board facilitates and oversees the Management team as it serves and protects the long term interest of all
stakeholders. The five main tasks of the Board are

- Policy formation
- 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 organization'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 program plan and budget.
- Ensure mechanisms are in place to understand key stakeholder views.
- Ensure Organization's accountability and transparency.
- Provide direction to Management.
- Actively engage in raising funds.

DATES OF BOARD MEETINGS
From April 2016 to March 2017

2016
May 17
Aug 19 (AGM)
Nov 15
2017
Feb 25



V. M. SAMUEL

Founder President

A Philanthropist and Social Entrepreneur, V. M. Samuel is well-known for his leadership skills & innovative Ideas. His passion to bring about tangible change among the underprivileged is the driving force behind Reaching Hand. His ability be stay focused on the vision despite challenges has been inspirational. His strategic thinking and management skills is visible in the solid foundation on which Reaching Hand stands.

K.T. SAJU

Secretary



Mechanical Engineer by profession, Saju is passionate about serving under - privileged in the society. Formerly the Chairman and Managing Director in a company, he plays a large role in fundraising and developmental activities.



T.M. SANTHOSH

Treasurer

An MBA who works as a Director in a Private Limited company in Bangalore, Santhosh has many years of managerial experience in Administration, Accounts and Finance. He plays a key role in the financial management of the organization.

ABEY THOMAS

Trustee



A Serial Entrepreneur & Real Estate Developer for the last 27+ years, Abey owns several businesses, including a well-established software training centre in Bangalore. He oversees fundraising and projects.



DR. GEORGE CHERIAN

Trustee

Founder of a premium IT training company and CEO of a reputed BPO in Bangalore, Dr. George is a Medical Doctor by profession (specialising in dentistry). He mentors and oversees the program team.

FENWICK THOMAS

Trustee



An Electrical Engineer by profession with 25 years of working experience in Defence Research & as an Entrepreneur, Fenwick is one of the founding partners of Reaching Hand. He is involved in giving innovative ideas for the projects undertaken by the organization.

EAPEN ABRAHAM

Trustee



A retired Aircraft Maintenance Engineer from Chennai, who has worked with Air India in Mumbai & Delhi. He also served as the Proprietor of M/s. Nippon Dentures (India) and the managing director of M/s. Eapsons Dental Ceramics Pvt. Ltd. He task is to set up the old age home.

SRINIVAS RAGHAVAN

Trustee



An Electronics & Telecom Engineer with a work experience of more than 20+ years in the corporate set up, Srinivas is currently employed with Schneider Electric India as the Associate General Manager, Business Development, Asia Pacific.



Reaching Hand Office Staff

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



V. M SAMUEL

Founder and Chairman

Warm Greetings to you from all of us at Reaching Hand!

I would like to extend my appreciation and gratefulness to all the individuals and Corporate partners who stood with us - supporting our vision and trusting us with your finance and valuable time.

On behalf of the Board and RH staff I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without you we could not have accomplished what we have done so far.

The more we realize your passion to make a difference, the stronger our foundation is made in our vision. Your passion creates a vision, vision directs to the mission to accomplish. I am proud to say that I have the privilege of having committed and faithful Board, Staffs and the Donors who have the passion to bring about a change around us.

A radical change is the need of the times we live in. All around us, we can see hundreds and thousands of children, youth, and women desperate to escape the clutches of poverty and circumstances to achieve a better standard of life - not only for them but also for those around them. Our vision to empower individual and communities was borne out of this realization.

Let us together strive to empower, impact, and touch as many lives as we can.

Can we walk hand in hand to accomplish this vision, touching and uplifting those who are in need? Inching towards giving the underprivileged and needy honor and respect? We should empower them to be comfortable to live around us as good citizens of this nation and benefit those needy around them.

Once again whole heartedly I would like to honor the Board members, Volunteers, hardworking Staff and generous Donors. Above all I want to thank our Stakeholders, the children, school authorities, youth, women who gave us the opportunity to serve you.

Our vision of 2018 is to double the beneficiaries we can reach out to. Yes, we can achieve this through your involvement, generous giving, our persistent hard work and by God's help.

Come, let's do it together!

MESSAGE FROM COO



AKHAYA KUMAR SAGAR

Chief Operating Officer

The year 2016 was yet another "Year Of Achievements" for us at Reaching Hand .We continued marching forward with greater momentum and zeal to bring the socially excluded children & youth under the ambit of our programs pertaining to health & hygiene, my school & unemployment through innovative solutions. 2016 was an amazing year with full of new beginnings, inspirations, encouragements, learnings and, not to forget challenges! Reaching Hand reached out and provided quality education to 22376 children from 61 partner schools through Namma Shale, Girls Glory and Spoorthi programs. Out of 356 youths enrolled in our PRATISHTHA Skill Training Centre - 186 are now proud earning members in their families and are leading a life of self-worth and dignity. It gives us immense pleasure and satisfaction knowing how small opportunities have made an enormous impact in their life.

All this was possible because of the continuous support and inspiration from all our Stakeholders especially our children, youth, Partner, Donors, Volunteers, Government Officials & Well-Wishers. Our Board & Staff have been a great patronage in achieving the milestones. The commendable contribution of more than 1200 volunteers who helped us with their skills, time & resources in implementing our programs smoothly requires a huge shout out.

Over the years, Reaching Hand has emerged as a preferred partner with communities, governments and corporates because of its transparency and accountability to its stakeholders. We are proud to announce that Reaching Hand has been certified by Guidestar India as one of the most transparent and publicly accountable NGO in India. Our approach towards providing innovative solutions to the challenging crisis in sustainable development has been appreciated on different platforms.

We believe – we are on the journey of making a change in us and in the community to stay safe & happy. The journey, like every other has its own challenges but every time, there is an impact created we find more reasons to move ahead for our children, youth and the community. They are our driving force.

This journey has taught us how little it takes to make an enormous difference and if you are in the business of doing good, everything falls in place. We have met many wonderful people who have selflessly given their time, skill & money to help us reach where we are today. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been associated with Reaching Hand over the years and has positively impacted the lives of our children & youth. We look forward to your continued support and wishes.

For others who want to make a difference, we welcome you to be our partners in change!

Thank you for standing, in fulfilling our vision!

OUR PROGRAMS



01-
NAMMASHALE / MY SCHOOL

In India, English medium schools are in minority. Most children attend Government schools in the rural sector. "Namma Shale" is a joint venture between Govt school management and Reaching Hand organization to run multiple programs to improve the education system, with the support of our Corporate partners.

The objective of this program is to improve the quality of education and infrastructure facilities of Govt schools across India so that every child experiences the joy of learning in a safe and protected environment.

Through this initiative we connect to different Corporates who then adopt the school and provide help in the areas of need. The hall mark of this initiative is that we provide infrastructure, special training and learning equipments to the schools adopted.

The IT Major HCL has come up with its plans on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and "My school" is one of the initiatives which enables HCL to work for the betterment of society in India. They adopt a school and focus on enhancing the quality of education by providing access to digital literacy, computer labs, science labs and stationary. It also addresses the basic needs of learners by focusing on aspects of social welfare such as health and nutrition.



IMPACT NUMBERS

52 Govt. Schools Impacted

15,300+ Students Impacted

450+ Teachers Impacted

19 Paint Jobs

6 Sports Day Events

5 Tutoring and Mentoring Programs



SCALE UP

Adopt **500** schools, impact **125,000** students and **5,000** teachers by **2020**

IMPACT STORY

MAHANTESH

9th Grade
KR Puram Government School

Mahantesh, a proud beneficiary says "I had no other choice but to carry my books in a sack bag, "It was really embarrassing for me. Besides, I could not put all my things in it. My family is very poor and I could not expect my father to buy me a school bag."

Reaching Hand has initiated a campaign to provide school bags along with a school kit for every underprivileged child for just Rs 500. This school kit includes study materials, stationery,tiffin carrier, water bottle and health and hygiene kit.

"I don't have to carry a ripped sack anymore for I have received a new school bag from Reaching Hand,exclaimed Mahantesh, "I am excited that I can carry my things in this good bag. Thank you so much, Reaching Hand!"

Mahantesh's is not an isolated case. There are many children around us whose parents cannot afford a school bag, forcing many of them to opt out of school.





02-
GIRLS GLORY PROGRAM
A WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE PROJECT(WASH)

GIRLS GLORY Program aims at creating awareness on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for underprivileged adolescent girls in our partnered Higher Primary Government Schools.

Health problems due to poor menstrual hygiene and lack of affordable and appropriate sanitation facilities are directly correlated to absenteeism and school drop outs among adolescent girls, having a negative impact on their education

Through Girls Glory project, we aim to build clean, hygienic and private toilets for girls or upgrade non functional toilets in the schools and ensure that there is ample water facility with needed drainage & disposal arrangements. We also educate the students on health, sanitation and proper menstrual management by conducting workshops. The aim of this program is to see a behavioral change among young girls & enable them to come to school with more confidence and dignity.

Reaching Hand takes great care in ensuring that the toilets are maintained well by appointing Aayammas and forming WASH communities.



IMPACT NUMBERS

3361+ Girl's Impacted
955+ Boys Impacted
2203+ Girl's Impacted through workshops
654+ Boys Impacted through workshops
61 New Toilets Built
34 Toilets Renovated



SCALE UP

Build **500** New Toilets and impact **50,000** adolescent girls by **2020**

IMPACT STORY

SAHANA

9th Grade
Agara Government Higher Secondary School

Reaching hand conducts workshops on health, hygiene and puberty in my school,"If we were not taught through workshops conducted by Reaching Hand's "Girl's Glory Program," we would have never learned the precautions to take during periods. " says Shahana a 9th grader of Agara Government School. So many myths are cleared now. I learned that every girl should use good quality pads and change the pad after a few hours to avoid infection by any kind of virus.

She added that prior to the workshops she, like her friends did not take bath during the days of periods but now understands the importance of a daily shower to look fresh and fit. Reaching Hand also provided us with hand sanitizes.

The impact of the "Girls Glory Program" in Sahana's school shows how awareness can help the girls live their life with pride and dignity.



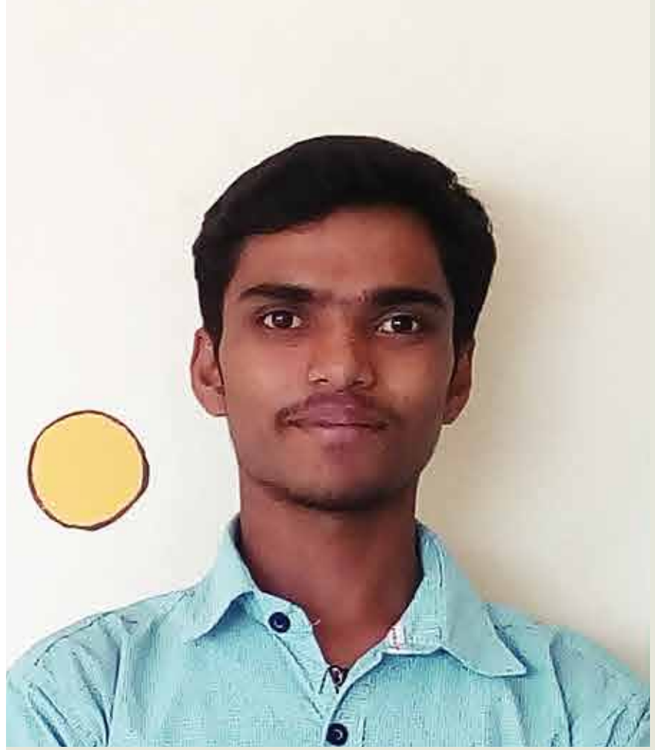


03-
SPOORTHI:
AN INTEGRATED LEARNING PROGRAM

This program emphasises on addressing the gap in quality and equity issues in public education by setting up an Integrated Learning Program. Inadequacy and poor quality of formal education in government schools is the primary reason of students opting out of schools. Majority of the students of these schools emerge with insufficient skills and knowledge.

Reaching Hand understood the gravity of the situation and started " The Spoorthi Program" in 2013 to address this issue. We partner with Government Schools to improve the quality of education by providing the students and teachers with training and learning equipment through our Spoorthi centers.

The Spoorthi center of the partnered government schools is provided with a well equipped Computer lab and Internet facility. The curriculum includes computer classes, life skills, soft skills and English speaking courses with well trained teachers. The students are encouraged to use the lab for their studies and aspirations. Presently Reaching Hand runs 8 Spoorthi centers in different schools in Karnataka.



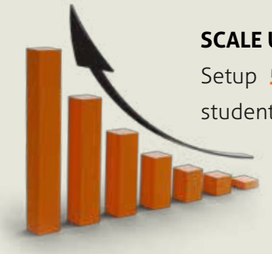
IMPACT NUMBERS

8 Centers in Bangalore

3265+ Students Impacted

55 Workshops Conducted

3 Summer Camps



SCALE UP

Setup **50** new centers and impact **30,000** students by **2020.**

IMPACT STORY

SONU KUMAR

10th Grade
Jeevan Bima Nagar School

Sonu's father is a tailor by profession and his mother works as a house help. He is a very active and intelligent student who always takes part in extra curriculum activities.

Through Reaching Hands "Spoorthi Program" in his school, Sonu Kumar says he got an opportunity to learn Computers and English communication. It has shaped Sonu Kumar to the person he is today. Sonu says, "I am one of the lucky persons who got a chance to be part of the Spoorthi program and I will motivate my friends so that they are also benefitted". He thanks Reaching Hand for providing such facilities to Govt schools which helped him to get the first position in his school.





04-

PRATISHTHA:

A SKILL TRAINING AND PLACEMENT CENTRE

Pratishtha Program aims at tackling the gravest issue of unemployment among the youth in the country. It provides training for youth between the age group18-35 and gives them opportunities for jobs through placements in various sectors.

Pratistha is a Skill Development and Placement Center that aims at developing the personality and intellectual skills of the youth by imparting and instilling in them life skills knowledge and computer skills through blended learning methods. It helps the youth to become confident to take up employment. We also provide them job opportunities through placement in various retail sectors.

Currently Reaching Hand ,runs 3 centers in Bangalore that offer a three month skill training course. The curriculum includes spoken English, customer interaction, life skills, work skills, communication skills, personality development and computer literacy. Many workshops are conducted to develop their skills and personality.



IMPACT STORY

BHARATH J R

Pratishtha Centre - Rama Murthy Nagar

Bharath's father is a farmer and his mother a homemaker. Due to severe financial crisis he was unable to go for higher studies hence he ventured into the job market in Bangalore with the hope to sustain his family back home. He has completed his P.U.C and B.A from a Govt College in Hassan district . He was referred to our Pratishtha Centre by his aunt who wanted him to learn English and other skills. He joined in our 5th Batch and was very attentive showing much interest in learning. His favorite subject is Customer Interaction.

Now he works in the retail sector and says that all the training in the Pratishtha center has helped him immensely in customer interaction. He is very thankful to"Reaching Hand" for giving him the opportunity to enhance his skill. He says there is growth in the retail field and will venture more into it. His ultimate aim is to acquire a job in the government sector.

IMPACT NUMBERS

3 Centers in Bangalore

356 Youths Trained

189 Youths Placed In Jobs



SCALE UP

Train and place **5,000** youth by **2020**





05-

NEW HOME

A CHILD PROTECTION & CARE CENTRE

The astounding number of orphans in the country is the driving force behind the initiative of the New Home program. These vulnerable children lose out on opportunities for schooling, healthcare ,growth, development, nutrients and shelter.

New Home is a project of Reaching Hand that started in 2006 and currently has two shelter homes, one for the girls and one for the boys.

The aim of the program is to raise the standard of living for these children through good education, providing protection, shelter, clothes and nutritious food, and the development of life skills to become independent, responsible citizens of the society.

Through this program we reach out to as many vulnerable children as possible and provide them with shelter, protection and care,giving them hopes of a better tomorrow.



IMPACT NUMBERS

25 Boys and **25** Girls



SCALE UP

Permanent Home to shelter and cater to **500** children

IMPACT STORY

CHUIMAYO

2nd Year in Automobile Engineering
Srinivas Institute Of Technology, Mangalore

Chuimayo joined the New Home family at a tender age of 7 in 2006 and started his schooling immediately in one of the best schools in the locality. He had lived with his father and siblings in the Indian north eastern state of

Manipur. Aspirations and dreams are not within the reach of many in that state. His uncle forced his father to let him relocate to Bangalore in hopes of a better education and facilities.

His love for reading helped him win an essay writing competition in school. He made the best use of the school and New Home library facilities. Though he appears timid, he is a football champion and his school holds the credit of their formidable team to him.

He gives all credit to his "Journey to Success" to the New Home team who has been his constant support and motivation. Looking back, he says,"New Home has taught me to love unconditionally, be considerate to others and to believe in myself."

"When destiny finds you, nothing can stop you"- Way to go Chuimayo!





06-
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Underprivileged children and youth are at the risk of becoming school dropouts or discontinuing their studies for a variety of reasons often financial. Reaching Hand provides different opportunities to make such youth productive citizens and encourage them to lead a better life through good education from a crucial age.

Through the Scholarship program, Reaching Hand aims at providing fund for higher studies so that deserving students can avoid a break or halt in their education. Children who desire to continue with school are relieved of the financial burden, which often prevents them from achieving a quality education.



IMPACT STORY

REVATHI R

St Anne's Pre-university College
Scholarship Student-2016

Revathi, a beneficiary of Reaching Hand "Scholarship Program," is studying in St. Anne's Preuniversity College in Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore. It was through her school principal that Revathi heard about Reaching Hand. Understanding her potential and academic interest Reaching Hand decided to support her through the "Scholarship program".

Revathi says, "My father is an auto driver whose income is very low. When I sat for my 10th class exam I had already resigned myself to the fact that I was not going for higher education. Reaching Hand has changed my life in an unimaginable way by funding for my higher studies."

Revathi wants to do her Post Graduation in Mathematics and intends to take up Teaching as her profession and give back to the society. She says, "Words are not enough to thank Reaching Hand for what they have done."

IMPACT NUMBERS

72 children sponsored last year .



SCALE UP

Empower **1,000** deserving children by **2020**



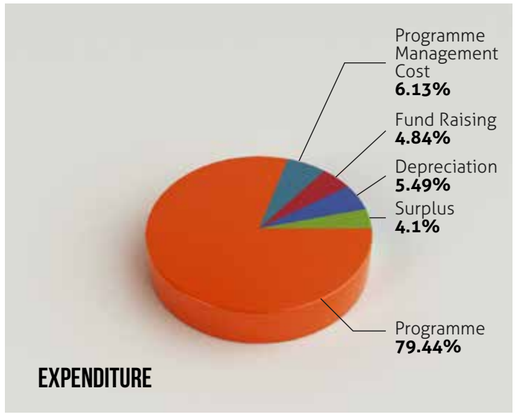
FINANCIALS

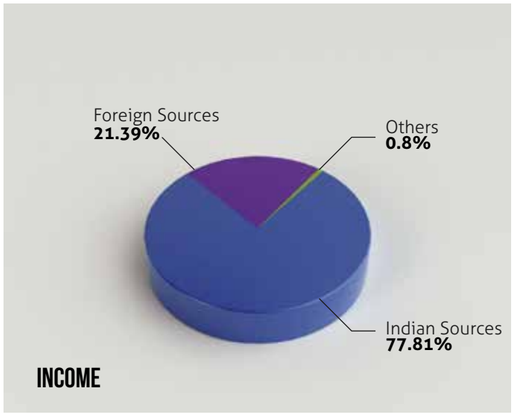
Reaching Hand ensures the best possible benefits to all its participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries by maintaining proper financial management. The funds are utilized judiciously as we have a layered structure of monitoring and audition processes. We ensure that stringent measures are in place to meet the highest standards of transparency.

REACHING HAND TRUST - CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017 - (CONSOLIDATED)

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
To Programmes		21,831,241.77	By Donations - Local	34,088,356.14	
			Contributions - FC	9,373,358.04	43,461,714.18
To Programme Management Cost		2,688,212.19			
			By Bank Interest - Local	140,176.00	
To Fund Raising		2,122,539.50	- F C	82,026.00	222,202.00
To Upkeep & Maintenance		2,972,012.12	By Other Income		29,489.00
To Depreciation as per Schedule "A"		2,405,087.45	By Medical Insurance		93,050.00
To Building Fund		10,000,000.00			
To Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		1,787,362.15			
TOTAL		**43,806,455.18**	**TOTAL**		**43,806,455.18**

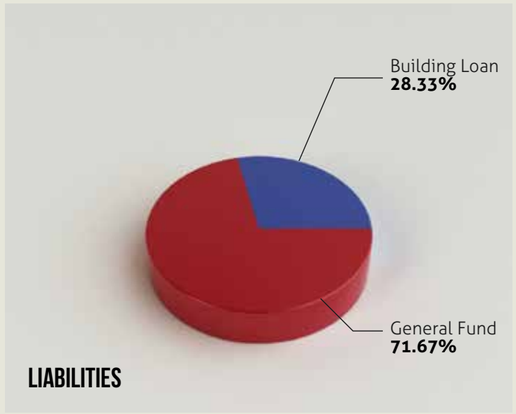


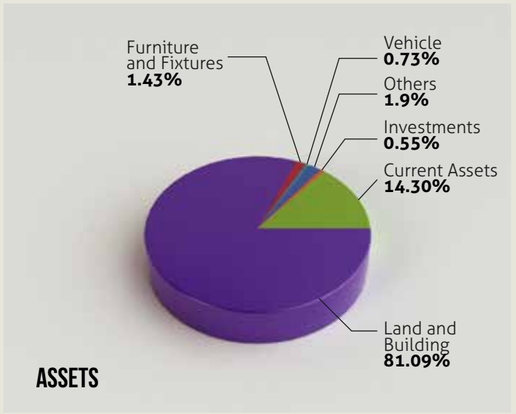


REACHING HAND TRUST - CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017 - (CONSOLIDATED)

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Corpus Fund		1,000.00	**FIXED ASSETS**		
			As Per Schedule "A"		65,143,909.37
GENERAL FUND					
As Per Last Balance Sheet	40,508,961.35		**INVESTMENTS:**		
Add:Excess of Income over			Fixed Deposit		422,920.00
Expenditure for the year	1,787,362.15				
Add : Utilised & Transferred			**CURRENT ASSETS**		
from Land & Building Fund	12,528,245.59	54,824,569.09	**Deposits & Advances**		
			Deposit-- Rental		
			(As per Last B/S)	1,805,000.00	
			Add: During the year	370,000.00	
				2,175,000.00	
BUILDING LOAN					
As Per Last Balance Sheet	16,392,524.88		Less: Refund	177,500.00	1,997,500.00
			during the year		
Add During the year	6,500,000.00		Advance: Building		
	22,892,524.88		(As per Last B/S)	4,495,726.00	
Less: Repaid During the year	1,211,578.88	21,680,946.00	Add: During the year	494,764.00	4,990,490.00
			CLOSING BALANCES:		
			Cash on Hand - Local	35,595.53	
			- F C	15,877.00	
			Cash at Bank - Local	1,558,448.12	
			- F C	2,341,775.07	3,951,695.72
TOTAL	**76,506,515.09**		**TOTAL**		**76,506,515.09**





GET INVOLVED

Reaching Hand encourages Volunteering by creating opportunities for the volunteers to work with and mentor the marginalized children, youth and women in society. Volunteers have been a major part of our work force time and again. We welcome fresh ideas and perspective to develop and help with the growth of our program. We cater to local, national and international volunteers alike.

We engaged 1,170 local volunteers and 30 international volunteers last year and look forward to engage more this year.

Get in touch with us if you or your team would like to volunteer with us as individual, Group or engage your employees as part of (CSR)- Corporate Social Responsibility.

Volunteering Opportunities

- Painting and Cleaning of Government Schools
- Creative painting in partnered school Computer Centre
- Mentoring, Coaching and Career Guidance
- Teaching and conducting workshops
- Sports and Outdoor activities
- Arts and Crafts
- Fundraising
- Social Media Marketing
- Setting Library and teaching stories
- Events, Campaigns and Stewarding
- Personality Development
- Communications & Lifestyles
- Spoken English and Basic Computers

And many more...



Painting of Government School



Mentoring session



Pratishta Campaign



Tree plantation in Government School





Volunteers from corporate for painting program

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-17

" Actions speak louder than words "



CSR Leadership award 2016



Fund Raising Award 2016



Water purifier distribution in Government School



Distribution of School Bags





Inauguration of toilet



2016, TCS Marathon



HCL Sports Day



Karate class in Government School



JP Morgan Sports Event



Hand made Cards



In News



Token of Love to India Cares



Toilet Inauguration



Inaugural Speech



Health and Hygiene Workshop



Teachers Day Celebration



New Spoorthi Centre



In News



World Toilet Day Celebration



In News

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-17

Conversations Today • August 2016 Cover Story 7

Hands that help

Reaching Hand believes that we can and need to play an active role in the overall development of our youth by contributing in the fields of education, health and skill development.









In 1996, two gentlemen who went by the name of VM Samuel and KT Saju felt the need to lend a helping hand to underprivileged children. The first option at hand was to start a scholarship programme to provide financial assistance to such children — funds that would help them with their education. "What began as an initiative by this group of passionate professionals soon grew into a programme that would go on to cater to provide abandoned, destitute and vulnerable children with the necessary support, protection, healthcare and education so that they could in turn contribute to society," says Akshaya Kumar Sagar, the Chief Operating Officer of Reaching Hand, the NGO that Samuel and Saju began. The same NGO which has in the last two decades helped with the education of nearly 1000 children, and the housing needs of nearly 50 orphan, destitute and underprivileged kids.

From its inception in 1996, Reaching Hand has been unwavering in its mission to educate. "We strongly believe that through education, poverty can be addressed and eventually eradicated," says Sagar, "However, many children in our society are unable to pursue their education simply because of financial constraints." It was here, that Reaching Hand saw the perfect opportunity. And while providing scholarships seemed like the most viable option at hand, it did not come easy. Several like-minded people who identified with the NGO's mission were instrumental in providing help. And one of the beneficiaries was the NGO's very own housekeeping staff, Susan, who lost her husband in 2011, and had a daughter in class 8 to bring up on her own. "We stepped in and took care of Smitha (Susan's daughter)'s education back then," recalls Sagar, Today, Smitha is pursuing a BCom programme in her second year, and plans to become a chartered accountant. Her life story is a wonderful example of how we have had the privilege and honour to invest into the lives of numerous underprivileged children, and turn today's destitute into tomorrow's leaders."

Education, however, wasn't the sole aim of the Reaching Hand. India's growing rate of poverty among children was also a worrying factor in the NGO's journey. Doing its bit for India's 20 million orphaned children was something it hoped to achieve as well. The primary problem here seemed lie in that most of these children were without homes. "These children were in danger of losing opportunities for school, health care, growth, development, nutrition, and shelter, in short, their rights to a decent and fulfilling childhood," recalls Sagar. It was here that Reaching Hand saw another opportunity, and launched its next big project, Christened 'New Home', the project was started to address the need to provide housing solutions to destitute children. "Our objective was to achieve this by providing these children with the necessary support, protection, nutritious food, health care and quality education with life skills so that they can be mainstreamed and become productive members of society," says Sagar. He continues, "When we began in 2006, we started with 10 children. Today we have two shelter homes for orphans and destitute children for both girls and boys consisting of 46 (23 girls and 23 boys) children." This year alone has seen several of New Home's first children, who arrived at the facility a decade ago aged 5 and 6, graduate from school and begin their college education. On the anvil now, is a bigger housing project, which will see Reaching Hand build a bigger facility for children. "We have completed phase one of the construction, and hope to complete the project by 2020 where the facility will be able to house and cater to 500 children, and include a clinic, staff quarters and a residential school," says Sagar.



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Through the last two decades of its existence, Reaching Hand has continued to emphasize the need to not just 'provide' for children, but do a whole lot more in ensuring a better future for them. "While providing for children might be helpful in the short term, the long term goal should be to transform them into contributing members of society," affirms Sagar, "This can happen only by creating opportunities for them to succeed." To create such opportunities, the NGO has also launched a series of programmes. One of these projects is *Namma Shale*, which focuses on developing infrastructure facilities at schools like classrooms, toilets and libraries. At present, the project has impacted more than 10,000 children at 50 government schools. Reaching Hand expects it to impact an additional 25,000 children by 2020. Other projects along these lines include the likes of Spoorthi (after-school programme aimed at improving learning level outcomes of children), Girls Glory (sanitation and hygiene initiative for girls), Pratishtha (vocational skill-training programme) and Reaching Hand's Women Empowerment Programme, which aims to empower women by providing training to start businesses. The NGO's Pratishtha and Women Empowerment Programme have impacted 200 youth and 226 women, so far. The NGO hopes to impact 2,000 youth by 2020, and help an additional 100 women every year by developing on these two programmes.

As it sets its sights on the future, Reaching Hand finds itself with an array of challenges, but like Sagar says, the team is more than excited. "A majority of India's population, by 2020 will comprise of individuals between the ages 10 and 24," he says. "While this is great news in terms of potential for economic and social progress, it also poses a great and serious challenge that needs to be addressed." Reaching Hand has also deduced that a young generation brings with it, a certain set of specific needs, challenges and aspirations. "The youth of today can be the leaders of tomorrow only if they have the right skills, education, health and direction. This is where Reaching Hand believes that we can and need to play an active role in the overall development of our youth by contributing in the fields of education, health and skill development," says Sagar as he signs off, "Only then can we truly grow and succeed as individuals, as communities and as a nation."



Inauguration of Hand Wash Unit



Bag Distribution in Government School



23rd SuSanA Meeting

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"Reaching Hand is one of our lead community partners. I congratulate them for the wonderful work they are doing with Govt Schools in Bangalore. RH program team collaborates very well with the teachers to bring more superior learning impact. More power to you guys!"

Vahida

Spoorthi Beneficiary
Student, 9th A,
Jeevan Bima Nagar Govt. School



"I am very thankful to Reaching Hand for setting up the" Spoorthi Center (computer Center)" in our school and providing us the basic computer education. The teacher is very friendly and taught us through various methods. The workshops conducted on puberty have helped me very much in understanding the importance of health and hygiene . The summer camp taught me to be confident and to love myself the way I am. It helped me in building my self-esteem."

Selvi Narayan

My School Beneficiary, Headmistress,
B.Narayanapura Govt. School



"Reaching Hand has always come forward to provide helping hand when there is any need in our school. They have painted the classrooms and set up a computer lab with a full-time trainer to teach 8-10 grade students the basic of computers. They gave stationery to the students and have conducted many workshops to educate the students. The academic results of this year are very good and I am thankful to Reaching Hand for their efforts."

Sharmila

Namma Shaale Beneficiary,
Teacher, Doddenkundhi Govt. School



"Reaching Hand plays a key role in creating an impact in the lives of the students as well as the teachers. They have conducted differen programs like "Teachers fun day and "Teachers day" program to honor all the teachers of the government schools. Reaching Hand makes use of every opportunity to motivate the teachers. We are proud to be associated with Reaching Hand."

"If lips and life do not agree, the testimony will not amount to much."

Niki Kraska

US Volunteer



"I have been associated with Reaching Hand since 2014. I am currently volunteering with New Home(A project of Reaching Hand) as the coordinator of home schooling and planning activities. I have developed such a connection with the children that I want to keep this relationship forever. There is much work to be done to make their life beautiful ,and I am contributing from my heart in every viable way."

Narendra

Local Volunteer



"I have attended many volunteering sessions but I am impressed by the way Reaching Hand conducts various activities for motivating the students as well as the teachers. It's the first time I am seeing such efforts taken for the government schools by any NGO. I want my entire corporate team to be involved in volunteering,and I personally want to thank Reaching Hand and their staff for giving Volunteers a chance to contribute to the society."

Karthik

New Home Beneficiary,
10th Standard
Capstone School



"I joined New home when I was 5 years old and now my age is 16 years. Reaching Hand has provided me a home where I receive love and care in every way. Here I am motivated to study and achieve my goals . They always encourage me to take part in extracurricular activities .I am glad I am in New Home. I am thankful to all the mentors and staff in the premises who mold me each day. I want to achieve my dreams and give back to society what it has given me.

"Love you Reaching Hand!"

