



Lend-A-Hand-India

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Annual Update 2006

It has been an exciting year of growth and achievement for Lend-A-Hand India. We could not have done it without support from our donors, friends and volunteers. There is a lot to celebrate this year. Below are some of the highlights:

Over **1300** young girls and boys from fifteen villages and slums in Mumbai have benefited from our flagship vocational training and self-employment generation project: [PLAN 100](#) and our aptitude testing and career counseling project: [Project Disha](#).

We launched **six** new multi-skill vocational training centers, as part of project [PLAN 100](#), taking the total number of centers supported by Lend-A-Hand India to **eight**.

We continued to maintain our expense ratio below **15%** thereby contributing over 85% of the funds raised to our programs. Thanks to our volunteers donating hundreds of hours of their professional time.

Success stories: In the village of Bhivadi, the students are building a water tank for the community as part of their practical learning. Initiatives like these not only enrich students with hands on experience but also instill the importance of community service, and a major aspect of the vocational training program, sustainability. Gopal Dound from Kem got a job as Forest Ranger because he got timely information about the job vacancy through the Swadheen Library, part of Lend-A-Hand India's career counseling project. In the village of Rajuri, 80% of the students selected the courses for further education on the basis of career counseling and aptitude tests organized by Lend-A-Hand India.

Run for a dream: 20 volunteers participated in half and full marathons in USA and India to raise funds for Lend-A-Hand India. We thank them for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of young girls and boys.

Opening of India Office: We are proud to share the exciting news of opening of our India office in November. This will facilitate closer contact and communication with our partners.

Plans for 2007: Besides starting multi-skill and technically oriented vocational training centers in high schools, several new initiatives are in the pipeline. The first batch of about 300 students will be graduating from the vocational training centers. Our study shows that about 20% of these graduates start their own enterprises. To help these budding entrepreneurs pursue their dreams, we are launching a 'Bridge Loan' fund. We are also launching a 'Volunteer Abroad' program and we will expand our reach in two more states, Tamilnadu and Karnataka.