



Lend-A-Hand-India

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Annual Update 2007

With the continued support from well-wishers, donors, and dedicated volunteers, Lend-A-Hand India continued its march in 2007.

Following are the major highlights of the year:

PLAN100 – a project to equip 20,000 girls and boys from 100 high schools in rural India with job and life skills – this year we were able to provide vocational and life skills training to **2300** students from 12 high schools spread over 9 districts in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Launched in 2005-06, Project Plan 100 is now in 16 schools covering **3300** students.

Project Disha - provides aptitude testing and career counseling facility for students in rural high schools. During the year we reached to **461** students from six villages and over 100 satellite communities. With proactive lead taken by the project participants in three villages – Kem, Indapur and Asde – over 100 girls completed short term vocational training programs such as tailoring, pre-school teaching, and beauty parlor. Many of them have established their own small practices. The total outreach under Project Disha is **1500** students. This project was launched in 2004 and its impact is being reviewed in 2008.

Lend-A-Hand continued to maintain its expense ratio below **15%** thereby contributing over 85% of the funds raised for the projects. Maintaining this low expense ratio was possible because of hundreds of hours of professional time donated by our volunteers.

Success stories: Both, Project Plan 100 and Project Disha entail several success stories. To meet the electricity need in emergency situations, five schools assembled pedal power bicycles. In many schools students now undertake electrification, minor repair and maintenance, and fabrication related jobs. This helps them in getting hands on experience as well as the school saves on hiring of outside services. As a sustainability measure, students now assemble and sale LED batteries in the local market. Some schools produce and sale nursery plants and vermi-compost to the local farmers.

Run for a dream: 35 runners participated in half and full marathons in various cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Chicago, Mumbai, Bangalore to raise funds for Lend-A-Hand India projects. We thank them for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of young girls and boys. For more information, please visit www.runforadream.org

India Office: We added one more staff member in our India office. Mr. Prabhakar Patil will assist in project monitoring.



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Plans for 2008: In 2008 we plan to achieve the target of reaching to 50 high schools under Project Plan 100. We will conduct a review of Project Disha and decide about its second phase. The Bridge Loan Fund initiative, is facing some operational hurdles. We plan to review it by taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Stanford Business School students who studied it during 2007, and streamline it. Work on several initiatives will get completed in 2008: The on line monitoring system for Project Plan 100 will be fully operational in 2008. To ensure quality implementation of the program, we will make it available to whoever is involved in scaling up of the IBT module.

We will sharpen our outreach and advocacy efforts. Towards this, the production of a documentary on Project Plan 100 is in progress. It is expected to be ready by June 2008. Resource mobilization is a daunting challenge in the face of current economic scenario. We will have to work hard and also review our fund raising strategy in the coming year.