

Regenboog India Foundation

Annual report of 2011 – 12

Dear Friends,

I am happy to reach you all through this annual report for 2011 -2012(April – March). We are so grateful for your generous support. Without your support we would not have been able to make the many positive changes that have allowed us to serve an ever-increasing number of beneficiaries in all of our projects.

So here are the some highlights for 2011-2012:

FCRA approval

After many struggles and much time, in April 2011 we received our FCRA permission from the Government of India that allows us to receive support from abroad. This was a big relief and the news lifted and energized all of us. We are grateful to the Government officials for their kind support in this.

Website launched

With the goals of making Regenboog visible and transparent to anyone interested in our organization, we decided to develop a new website. Mr. Siva (India) designed a nice website and Prof. Patricia Moran (USA) wrote the content to create the new website that was launched in January 2012. The website provides detailed information about the projects, as well as Regenboog's organizational and financial status. In addition, all the latest news about the projects is available on our home page so that the viewers can easily follow new developments.

Library Program Launched

A small but good initiative was started this year by Regenboog is a “mobile library” program as a part of our educational services. In the initial period a volunteer carried books to slums, children homes in town and distributed books every alternate weeks.



Sarasvathi Children Home:

In 2007 we opened the Sarasvathi Children's Home. The home was opened in response to the need to provide care for children who could not live with their families because they were orphaned, abandoned, or their families could not care for them. A home was rented in VEDIYAPPANUR village near Tiruvannamalai where a growing number of children lived in a family environment, received



regular medical attention, attended good private and public schools, and thrived under the care and nurturance of their home mother.

As more and more children came to us, it became apparent that we needed a larger permanent space for the children. Thus was born the idea to create the Sarasvathi Children's Village. The idea was to create a true eco-friendly village for children on an acre of land with separate living spaces, each housing 10-14 children, a garden area, playground, a library with computers and the internet, and enough extra space to expand over time.



The intention of the Village is to provide loving care to children in need while helping the children maintain contact and connection with their native communities. The proposed village is situated on almost an acre of land in the VEDIYAPPANUR village.



In addition to attending good schools, children living in the Village are given opportunities to learn classical Tamil music, classical dance (Bharathanattiyam), ABUCUS, painting, crafts, and sports. The children will be supported until they are independent adults, including through higher education if that is their desire. All of our children know the pain of the circumstances they come from and are deeply appreciative of the care they now receive. It is our hope that many will grow into adults who want to give back to society by helping others, just as they have received support themselves.

One issue we faced was the poor health of some of the children. Many became ill and some had to be taken to the hospital. But later in the year it was addressed properly with the support of the mobile clinic team.

Mobile Clinic Project

In 2011-12 year, the mobile clinic team treated 33,239 patients in 211 days with an average of 157 patients treated per day. Our 5th year of service was completed in 2011 and during the first week in September we celebrated treating our 100,000th patient.



The year 2011-12 was a great year with many positive developments. As usual the mobile clinic team visited the rural remote villages from Monday to Friday and monthly two Saturdays they visited the AVS School in VEDIYAPPANUR village and two other orphanage homes in Vengikkal village.



Our service was extended to a few new villages and we started visiting two orphanage homes in Tiruvannamalai for monthly regular medical checkups. The public's awareness of and confidence in the mobile clinic expanded to new levels. Villagers from long distances travelled to the clinic and we received numerous requests to visit more villages. Unfortunately, we were unable to agree to these requests because of time and resource constraints.

Our mobile clinic team was helped in various ways by training nursing assistants from an institute who travelled with the mobile clinic team and learned the profession. We are indebted to Philips Electronics who donated Rs.200,000/- to the mobile clinic for medicine expenses after their CEO, Mr.Wido Manhardt, visited the mobile clinic in November 2011. His visit and feedback motivated the team to make improvements to their already high level of skill and commitment. In addition, we are grateful to the Shanthimalai Trust (an organization in



Tiruvannamalai) who began to donate Rs. 25,000 every month.

In addition to our many successes, there were also challenges. In August we started visiting the Jawadhu Hills again but we stopped again in December because we did not have a doctor available for these visits. There were many requests from the villagers in this area to visit but we were unable to comply. We are doing everything possible to begin services there again. There were problems with the air conditioning and power systems in the clinic, which presented issues for the team, but they were able to continue despite these problems.



Our doctor, Mr. Anantha Piriya Suntharam, stopped traveling with the team at the end of January 2012. He was a supportive and understanding team member and a wonderful doctor to his patients. The project earned a good reputation among the people because of his efforts.

Education

Many children living in Tiruvannamalai and surrounding villages attend poor quality schools that do not afford them the chance to reach their true potential. Arunachala Evening Schools were started with the goal of illuminating the lives of thousands of underprivileged children who are deprived of their basic right to education and to support those who have virtually no opportunities to showcase their innate talents. We strive to instill a love of learning that will continue throughout their lives. Apart from education, the schools develop the personality of the students as a whole by teaching and modeling basic ethics and values. In 2011 -2012 we were able to add an additional school at the office in VOC Nagar in Tiruvannamalai.



Every evening from 5:00 to 7:30 PM children gather at their neighborhood Arunachala Evening School where they meet in groups according to their grade level in school. Each group has a teacher.



- The first hour is devoted to improving the skill of “active listening” and “grasping ideas” among the students.
- The second hour involves discussions with the students to clarify their questions related to their school subjects. In the process of discussion students are encouraged to think outside of the box so that they will be



able to link their creativity and imagination with the subject and gain a better understanding of it.

- During school exam times, we provide additional hours for students to learn and practice their lessons.

Apart from teaching the regular school subjects like Tamil, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science on week days, classes are also conducted every Saturday in general knowledge, drawing and painting. Oratorical competitions and debates are also conducted to motivate students to improve their public speaking skills. Model exams are conducted regularly to help students

take their exams with confidence.

The centers arrange parent-teacher meetings where parents are able to put forth the difficulties faced by their children in learning so that they are trained with extra care. When parents communicate the academic and overall development they have seen in their children, we are proud, motivated and energized to further our goals.

Every alternate week students are allowed access the mobile library, which exposes them to the world of books. The students utilize this opportunity to explore areas including general knowledge, not covered in their regular school syllabus.

We attempted to start two initiatives with the parents of our students concerning health education and environmental care. Parents' lack of cooperation became a barrier to our efforts and we have talked as a team about how to solve this problem in the future.



A computer center was opened at Vengikkal to give an opportunity to the kids to learn computers, which was kept as a dream for them for a long time.

Mobile Library

There are numerous obstacles for children in developing good reading habits. Many families cannot afford books, and books that are of interest to children of different ages can be difficult to find. In addition, television and computer games have come to occupy too much time in the lives of many children. Because we believe that reading is of great value to children, we decided to begin a library project. After the collection of books in Hindi, Tamil, and English from various sources and donors, in June 2011 we started a small library project for the evening school children, which quickly expanded to include other children.

Currently, a volunteer carries these books on a motorbike to our evening schools, and a few orphanage homes every other week. Children can choose as many books they can take home and return the next time. The children have been very happy to see all those different titles in various fields (stories, biography, science, literature, fiction, history, social, etc.,)



The biggest challenges we have faced have been to limitation of transporting the books on a motorbike. A motorbike is not usable during the rainy season and, as our library grows, we cannot take all of the books even in good weather. Our solution is to buy a small goods carrier vehicle (like bigger auto-rickshaw) that can carry more books in any weather. In addition, this type of transportation would allow us to travel to more remote villages where children are eager for this service.



TNPSC Support Program

In order to receive a good government job, students must pass a difficult exam, which many fail. Mr. Parthiban, who is highly ranked in the Tamilnadu Public Service Commission, offered to train 30 of our youth in preparing them to take the exam. Regenboog provided these students with exam preparation materials and guidebooks and Mr. Parthiban offered great support. In return for this support, all of our students promised to be honest officials in the field of public service and to support many other students from poor family background. It is an important effort to see a change in the near future.

Financial overview

After the FCRA permission obtained in April 2011, funds from our partner organization started coming for the projects and our activities increased dramatically. We are so grateful for the support!

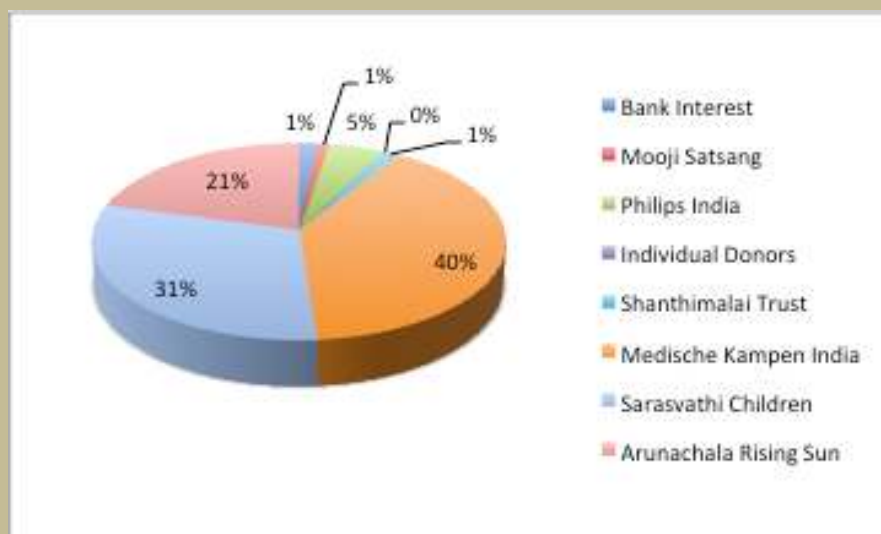
A cornerstone of our organization is transparency and accountability and we are always striving for better ways to reach maintain these goals.

A professional chartered accountant audits our books and annual returns were filed on time with the FCRA division of Home Affairs and Income Tax department as per the rules. Also the audited financials are posted on our website, office and our project places for the public along with the annual reports.

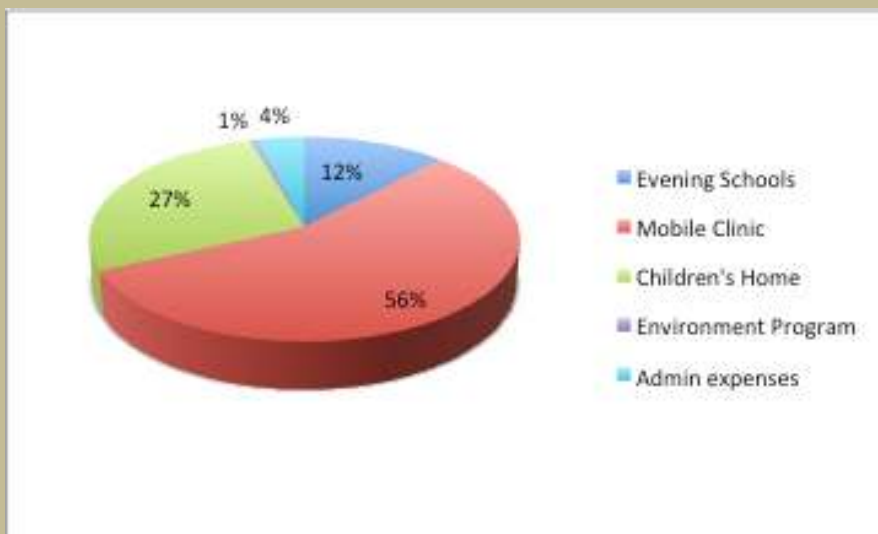
Financial review of 2011-12:

- Also we are so grateful to the staff team, who did a good bargaining, negotiating while buying materials and services for the project, which also saved a lot of money. We share this thanks with our service providers, banks and vendors for their smooth cooperation.
- A proper budget was made for each project (which was discussed and made by the whole team) and the donors approved the same.
- Administration cost was always considered during the year and as an aim of the organization it was kept at 4% in this year.
- Land purchase, land development & construction of children's village were increased the expenses of the organization.

Please find below information, which shows the receipts and utilization of the funds for the project activities.



Receipts – donor wise



Utilization of funds project wise

Contact details of our chartered accountant:
 CA Renganathanagarajan NV B.Com., A.C.A.,
 58 Vettavalam Road (Ajees Colony II Street), Tiruvannamalai 606601
 Phone number: (0091) 4175 223091 / Email: ramanankv@vsnl.net

Conclusion

Another meaningful year passed with the heart-warming services, which brought a satisfaction to the beneficiaries. But even though still we believe in the process of learning, we have learned the mistakes we did, delays we made, failures that happened in this year and that gave us a good lesson to go for another successful year in 2012-13 without all these mistakes, failures & delays. Once again we thank you all for your wonderful cooperation and continuous support for this work!!!

