



DARE 2 DREAM NEWS

August 2015



DARE 2 DREAM Update August 2015

Dear D2D friends and supporters,

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of Dare to Dream's sponsors, supporters and well wishers. This update on the activities of D2D sponsored programs at the Indian Institute for Integrated Development (ICID) has been compiled by Bayden Daly and Meggan Boag. We recently spent a month at Yuva Jyothi helping with various administration duties and meeting the children and staff, an experience we cherished. The incredible work that ICID continues to implement in Nagpur, India, with the help of D2D support and donations, is truly life-changing. Many of the children that we came to know and love had troubled pasts, yet to see them so obviously happy and comfortable in their surroundings at Yuva Jyothi was heart-warming. So before we update you on some of the recent activities in Nagpur, we would like to thank everyone again for supporting such an important and effective organization, one that strives to change lives for the better through building capacity and self-esteem, truly invaluable resources.

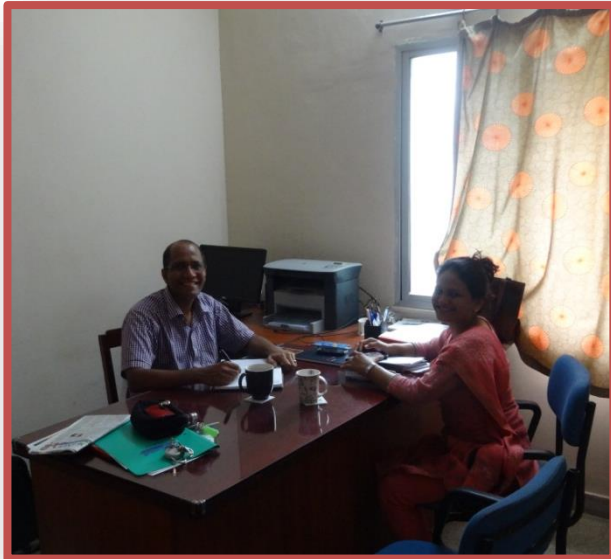
Yuvajyothi

Life at Yuvajyothi Children's Home (YCH) is a fast-paced and exciting affair. YCH provides a safe home for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. With 52 children under their care, the staff do their absolute best to provide each child with nutritious and delicious meals, clothing, accommodation, counseling, health and hygiene facilities, formal schooling, tutoring, recreational opportunities and many other programs and activities designed to build capacity and strength within the children. YCH places great importance upon strengthening the relationships between the children and their families, strongly believing in the importance of family ties and



reintegration. D2D support also provides one boy with vocational training to help ensure his economic independence. In early July, three new boys were accepted into YCH.

Father Herald and Chhaya in their newly painted office thanks to D2D funding, and some of the boys playing carrom. Their hand-eye coordination is mind-blowing!



2015 has already been a very busy and exciting year for the children and staff at YCH. Many occasions have been celebrated with hearty approbation and excitement, including Holi, Easter, Independence Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and many birthdays. In January 2015, the children attended a three day adventure camp organized by the local charity, Make A Difference. The children participated in a series of themed workshops and interactive activities, such as crafts, creating self esteem quilts, cooking, face painting, aerobics and trekking. Similarly, the children participated in a four day camp organized by the Art of Living Foundation. Both camps were a huge success, with the children showing a keen interest in all the activities and thoroughly enjoying themselves. In December 2014, eleven students and four teachers from St. Dominic's Priory College, Adelaide, spent a week at YCH. They helped organise many fun-filled games and activities, filling the centre with laughter and joy. The children enjoyed their company and the staff at YCH felt that their presence was truly appreciated and helped touch the lives of all involved.

During the school holidays, many of the children returned home to spend important and valuable time with their families. For those remaining, a series of programs and activities were designed to help keep the children busy, much to the relief of the team members. Thanks to D2D support, and much to the relief of the staff, a new television was installed in the children's activity room, providing a much needed source of entertainment and distraction during the recent heat wave. Similarly, the new sports equipment and games, such as carrom and chess, provided by D2D has proved very popular with the children, with regular cricket matches being played outside, regardless of the weather conditions (see below). In June, the children who remained at the centre during the holidays were treated to a one-night excursion to Pench Tiger

Resort in Madhya Pradesh, two hours south of Nagpur (see bottom right). The children enjoyed their night in the wild, throwing frisbees around with delight and taking in the jungle scenery.



Former beneficiaries of YCH demonstrate how influential and successful the project has become. Sheik Salman (see right), for example, arrived at YCH in 2005. Now 24 years old, he lives and works in Hyderabad and is married with a child. Earning a steady 9500 rupees a month, he thanks YCH for giving him direction and providing him with lots of love and care.



Nirmal Jyothi

The Nirmal Jyothi (NJ) project is a blessing for the Mangarodi, Gond and Wadar communities of Nagpur. Within the last year, the project has demonstrated a commendable decrease in school dropouts, with many beneficiaries preferencing attendance over beggary and rag picking. Through the awareness and education components of the project, five children were re-admitted to school and others chose to partake in vocational training. The regular presence of the team ensured a 100 percent immunization rate of the children within the target community, a commendable achievement. 63 young women benefitted from home management training with participants instructed in nutrition, health care and income generating activities.

The vocation training and livelihood opportunities programs provided training for 114 youth and women in different trades, such as tailoring, handbag, soap and detergent making, and driving. As part of the project, D2D also provided a crèche, offered tutoring, library and hygiene services, provided children with supplementary nutrition, organized parent-teacher meetings, and led life-skills and child rights advocacy workshops. Though the program has faced its fair share of difficulties, the vast achievements as listed above speak volumes concerning the success and positive effect that ICID and D2D are having within the target communities. As Father Herald stated, “the confident smiles on the faces of many children, young people and women unfolds it all”.



Tailoring training and life skills education at Nirmaljothi

Manini 2 Program

The Manini 2 program may be small in scope, but it is assuredly large in its impact upon the beneficiaries' lives. With the funding and support of D2D, 23 women from the small village of Bothali, Nagpur district, have been chosen to participate in a goat raising program, one of several vehicles identified for generating income and boosting livelihoods (see photo below). Manini 2 has ensured that the participants have had high quality instruction from veterinarians regarding feed management, vaccination, breeding, and the care of pregnant goats. Two goats were purchased per participant from a local market in November 2014, and a series of agreements

were signed by all to ensure that the goats would be properly cared for and that any female kids littered would be passed on to new beneficiaries as identified by ICID. Since its implementation, Manini 2 beneficiaries have littered 23 male kids and nine female kids. As part of the project, team members have organized many workshops and meetings





concerning motivation, sensitization, empowerment and sustainable development. A home management program held in January provided 40 women with advice and life skills concerning personal care, health, child care, budgeting and vocational skills. In February, a one day training

session on domestic violence and women's rights was attended by 43 women and female youth (see above). The Manini 2 project has proven to be highly successful. Many of the participants have shown marked improvements in their understanding of women's rights and their need to live economically independent lives.

The support of D2D continues to be pivotal in the implementation of the Yuva Jyothi, Nirmal Jyothi and Manini 2 projects. Each provides much needed support and guidance for its beneficiaries, actively changing their lives for the better. During our time at Yuva Jyothi we have been touched by the kind and sharing spirit that forms its bedrock. Whether seeing young Rahul care for a small bird that had lost its mother, or witnessing Raja, Vikrant and Manish help the younger kids prepare for school, we have been continuously touched by the joy and happiness that D2D and ICID have enabled in the lives of all the beneficiaries.

Thank you again for your continued support and we hope you enjoy the updated information and pictures.