



## Project Highlights 2008

In 2008 the Foundation continued to disburse ear marked funds as well as supported MF initiated and sponsored initiated projects. The brief account is as under:

1. Approximately \$ 467,533 received as ear marked donations were disbursed to 74 NGOs in India during the year. Some NGOs send their updates, annual reports to MF as well as to the donors directly.
2. \$ 33,000 was disbursed from the 2008 budget towards following MF sponsored projects:
  - Anti Human Trafficking through three NGOs (People's Institute for Rural Development (PIRD), Apne Aap, and Save the Children India)
  - Swyamsiddha – women and youth empowerment (Janvikas Foundation)
  - Pure and Safe Drinking Water for school children (Grant a Smile Foundation), and
  - Rural Aging (Janseva Foundation)

The NGOs are expected to send their six monthly progress report. The future disbursements are contingent upon satisfactory performance in the previous term. Almost all the NGOs have been sending their reports on time and MF plans to make them available through its website.

**Anti Human Trafficking** – the three projects address prevention as well as rehabilitation issue. **PIRD** works in 30 villages with adolescent girls in Ahmedpur Taluka near Latur. Awareness camps, village libraries, health check-ups, and preventing school drop outs are among the several activities conducted by PIRD.

**Save the Children India** also works towards prevention. Their strategy is to create a support net work for the vulnerable population and offer training to several stake holders in the chain. STCI works in Amaravati district and has gained remarkable reputation among the communities and the government agencies, including the police department.

**Ape Aap** works in Mumbai and towards rehabilitation. Their effort is to prevent the daughters of the prostitutes from entering into their mother's profession. Located in the red light district of Mumbai, Apne Aap works with girls as young as six months to adolescents. Educational support, nutrition, health, co-curricular activities, personality development are the kinds of support Apne Aap provides.

All the three projects under Anti Human Trafficking initiative have completed a three year phase (except STCI) and have requested for further support as they are witnessing real progress on the ground.

As the name indicates, **Swyamsiddha** project mentors the women and youth to make right choices about their future life and career by providing access to education, information and networking opportunities, and micro finance through self-help groups. This project is carried out in 10 villages in the first phase and is now in second year.



**Pure and Safe Drinking Water** project is really a high light of this year. Through sustained efforts Grant a Smile Foundation was able to quadruplicate MF's contribution of \$ 8,000 through local Rotary and Rotary International. The extended grant enabled installation of most appropriate equipment and peripherals to provide pure and safe drinking water in 50 schools, reaching approximately 10,000 students.

**Rural Aging** project was another high light of the year. Most of the efforts to address the challenges faced by aging population have urban focus. MF took initiative in supporting a project aimed at rural aging. MF and Share and Care jointly support the Rural Aging project carried out by Janseva Foundation near Pune. During the year a base line survey of senior citizens in 9 villages was completed and activities such as health checkups, eye camps, minor surgeries etc. were organized. On the analysis of the base line data and health and recreational needs of the senior citizens, support group networks are now formed to support each other.

**Khedker Hospital Project** is MF's special status project initiated through the ear marked contribution made by Late Prince and Nenescha Khedker through their will. This cottage hospital project is taking shape at Anjanvel, the native place of Prince Khedker, in Ratnagiri district. The first phase of the project consisting of a nursing home and out patient department is nearing completion. The inauguration of the facility is planned in January 2009. The second phase of construction of 20 bed hospital will also begin soon. Mumbai based Yusuf Meherally Center, a well known NGO working near Tara; Raigad District is MF's partner in implementing the project on the ground. The Attorney General, New York monitors the progress of the project and receives quarterly reports from the MF. President, MF and Sunanda Mane, MF's point person for the project have so far visited the project site twice and maintain ongoing contact with Yusuf Meherally Center.

During the year, all the above seven projects, in addition to many others supported through ear marked funds, were visited by MF President, Sunita Dhumale and Executive Committee Member, Sunanda Mane.

**Maytrin**, is MF US based project and in 2009 it will complete its decade long service. The number of calls received and appreciation from the beneficiaries, their parents, and social support organizations here in the US and India are the indicators of its success and continued need. With a meager annual budget of about \$ 4,000 for conducting this support line, MF is impacting several lives.

If MF members are interested to learn more about MF supported projects, please write with specific questions to [sunanda.mane@yahoo.com](mailto:sunanda.mane@yahoo.com)