

# Annual Report 2005- 06

## Preface

Salaam Baalak Trust closes another year.

Time to reflect on the satisfactions that came from last year's work – from each child enabled to read and write, each child in good health, each child possessed of resilience and determined to cast his past away, each smile on little lips....

Time also to renew our sense of purpose for the years – our promise to live up to the expectations of children, to provide them with opportunities to develop their full potential and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

In the year gone by, we strengthened our association with more than three thousand three hundred children. Some new and some old, but all formidable partners in the struggle against poverty, violence, disease and discrimination, all of which threaten to eclipse the lives of millions of children in India and other parts of the globe.

We feel blessed for having had the opportunity to serve a few of these children. We are satisfied to have served them with care and concern. We are jubilant that they have found themselves.

This is a time for celebration...celebration of childhood...of life.... we renew our invitation to you to keep us company in this on-going celebration.....

**Thanking you  
The SBT family**

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## OVERVIEW

SBT has been helping children find childhood, especially children in distress and children in difficult circumstances. Circumstances that detach them from the joys of childhood.

For 18 years, we have been working with children who have a turbulent past. Children who are uncared for, children who do not have a support system to lean on. SBT has been able to provide a caring atmosphere to thousands of street and runaway children in Delhi. While caring for these children itself has been joyous, reuniting them with their families has been extremely satisfactory. Our little help has been of great implication for these children -

helping to make their present more secure and their future more promising. Through our different services, we have been able to reach out to more than three thousand and three hundred children during the year gone by. While some of them remain in our care, many of them moved beyond - empowered and enthusiastic in their response to a world of opportunities.

SBT reaches out to children in need through its four shelter homes and five contact points. Our contact points are our window to the problems and needs of children. For children it's a doorstep to a caring and secure atmosphere where they can unwind, forget their past and move on to shelter homes, which provide a full range of services including education, health and nutrition, skill building and recreation.

While our educational programs worked with 2382 children of various age groups, 2750 children were covered by a clutch of inputs relating to attitude, mental ability and agility, and health services. Skills training and vocational education programs tried to equip 130 children with different capacities to make them financially self-dependent and contribute to their families and society in meaningful ways.



Aasra provided hope to 598 children. Apna Ghar instilled a sense of belonging to 60 children who have forgone their parental homes. At Arushi, named for the rising sun, 66 girls are sheltered in the warmth and affection of a true home.

Childline has proved to be an effective connect with children in need. As the service has become more effective in delivering relevant services to children in distress, it has grown ever more popular. In the year gone by, Childline interacted with 1331 children who required emergency services such as rescue, first-aid, emotional support and repatriation. Besides providing assistance to such children, the program worked to strengthen coordination with allied services as also in the area of advocacy for improvement in government policy and official programs targeted at children.

Children coming to SBT have excelled at various sports and games, and have shown equally remarkable skills in a number of other extra-curricular activities. This year, 53 children participated in national level and state level sports competitions and emerged victorious in their respective events. In addition, a total of 23 excursions/exposure trips/outings tried to bring out the best in these children.

Children who have left their homes are inherently more curious and rebellious than their peers providing them with a sensitive, caring and concerned atmosphere demands deft handling and a continuous upgradation of skills. At SBT, we have constantly been on our toes to respond to the calls for skill enhancement of our staff members. Many learning opportunities were organized for staff, helping them to better focus their services. Besides, we have strived to coalesce with other stakeholders, to consistently build relationships with individuals and organizations working closely with children. Organizing and attending a range of meetings, workshops and seminars facilitated an on-going exchange of experience in serving children.

The underlying theme of all our activities has been to create an atmosphere, which respects the child and treats him like one; that recognizes the rights of the child and combats their violation.

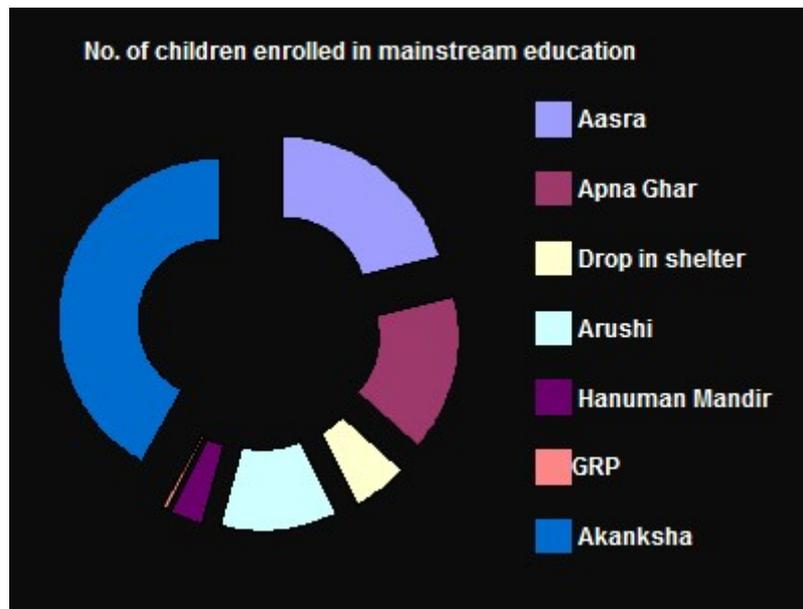
This is the pledge to which we rededicate ourselves.

## **SERVICES**

### **Education**

Educating children is a primary means of empowering them. We believe that education is the gateway to realization of our children's hopes, dreams and rights. Well designed and administered, an educational program should instill into our kids a sense of pride and purpose. To achieve this, our educational interventions go beyond studies and schools, and help children to learn to unravel their lives and to explore the world by themselves.

Through the year, SBT helped 2382 children participate in educational programs, whether formal, non-formal, bridge education or the Nation Open School learning program. At the same time, we believe that the best learning we offer children comes from the natural interaction they are able to have with other children in a sensitive, caring and secure environment. Life skills education tries to bring this belief into practice. While academic learning opens up opportunities for our children to join the mainstream, life skills programs aim to equip them with the attitudes, values and skills that make for a harmonious society.

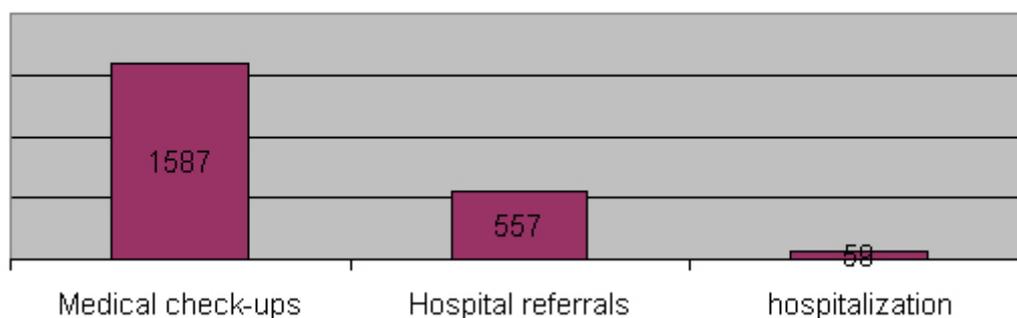


### Health Services

Health care is a major input into improving young lives. Providing such care to street and working children has always been a great challenge. Invariably the first casualty of a child's flight from home is his health; usually, children who lack the support of their families also find it difficult to live hygienically, and this has a major bearing on their health. SBT tries to promote health care among the children it reaches out to. Besides providing regular and routine health check-ups to all children at its shelter homes and drop-in shelters, we also support the long-term treatment needs of children through institutional linkages and referrals.

The health care needs of our children span the whole range from cuts and wounds to chronic tuberculosis, from emotional disorders to hepatitis, HIV and AIDS. In all, 1587 children had regular health check-ups. A substantial number of them (557) were referred to hospitals for more intensive check-ups and investigations; 59 needed hospitalization for longer periods ranging from 15 days to 3 months. 16 children also underwent surgery. Tuberculosis and other afflictions required long-term treatment for 39 children. Simultaneously, 91 children were identified as being at high-risk to HIV/AIDS, and were counseled to undergo VCTC. Fortunately none were tested positive. However, 12 children were detected with STDs. Our health services also address the mental health of children. The insecurity and extreme stress of their lives adversely impact the mental health of many children coming to SBT, manifesting in mild to severe schizophrenia or a wide range of emotional and behavioral disorders. Appropriate interventions were administered in all such cases.

### Health services provided at different centers



In addition to working with children enrolled in SBT, we also offer care and health promotion programs to children in neighboring communities. This year, such health camps addressed the medical needs of almost 1200 children. 574 among them were screened for different ailments & were referred to hospital. As part of this program, 656 children received polio drops. In addition, 2 specific HIV/AIDS awareness camps were organized for individual and group awareness, reaching out to 500 street children and 6235 other individuals. A large number of cases of drug abuse and addiction were identified and registered, and SBT was able to counsel 61 children and their parents to undergo detoxification programs.

### **Skills training**

The skills training program of SBT seeks to equip children with skills, which can contribute towards their financial self-dependence. Financial stability and self-dependence work wonders with the confidence and psyche of otherwise emotionally vulnerable adolescents, and also reduce the likelihood of their straying beyond social norms to earn a livelihood. SBT firmly believes that integrating education and other support services with skills are key to developing children into responsible and economically productive adults. While poverty and deprivation erodes their faith in society, education and regular employment wins them back into the fold of family and society.

During 2005-06, 130 children were admitted to different vocational courses - including 60 in computer training. Rewards came soon by successful placement of 35 of them in self- and wage employment.

### **Restoration & Repatriation**

While SBT strives to the best of its capacity to provide a safe, secure and sensitive environment to the children, it is conscious of the fact that even the best institutional care is a poor replacement for the family environment and care to which every child is entitled. Therefore, besides providing care and protection to children, it encourages repatriation and restoration of children to their families. However, repatriation is not viable when the family and the child have radically divergent interests or where the family is entirely incapable in providing for the needs of the child. This is true mostly in the case of girl children whose parents want them to marry when underage. A girl unwilling to submit is not left with any other options than to flee. For boys, there may be a range of situations in which restoration is not feasible.

However, wherever practicable, SBT urges repatriation, and counsels both the parents and the child in order to increase the chances of a successful repatriation.

During the year 2005 – 06, SBT has been able to restore 525 children to their families. Most of the cases aided by SBT counselors turned into happy re-unions. Among the children repatriated were 35 girls, for whom the safety of family is probably more critical.

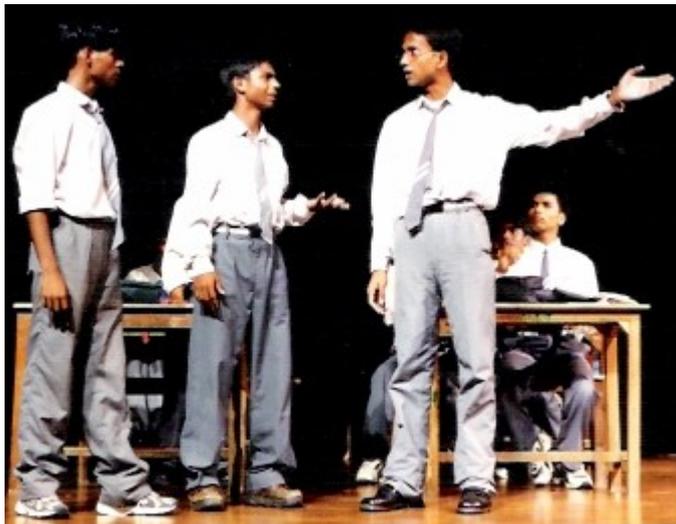
### **Sports, Recreation and other extra curricular activities**

SBT believes in creating opportunities for development and learning beyond studies; recreation has a major importance in augmenting the learning of children. We believe that recreation is the best possible way to make child receptive to an interested in a broad range of inputs. Besides, it also takes care of proper physical development of children, which is a necessary pre-requisite to intellectual and emotional development. For promising children, SBT also arranges specialized sports training.

This year, 122 children of Apna Ghar, Aasra and Arushi revelled during the 10-day annual tour to Manali, 36 children from DIS went to Surajkund mela.

Kumari, a girl child did us proud by participating in the National school football tournament

at Goa, 3 girls of SBT also participated National school football tournament at Chandigarh. Three boys participated in All India Karate competition at Pune and won 2 Gold and 1 silver medal. Two boys participated in South Asia Karate Championship at Kolkata and won silver medal



Theatre and performing arts has been a tradition at Salaam Baalak Trust. A major highlight of the year was the annual play and dance performance organized on the occasion of SBT's 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While "Kalpaon ki Udaan" staged by SBT children regaled an audience of 2500, the dance and drama program entitled "War of Kalinga" was staged at India International Centre. Kept audiences spellbound for more than two hours. The children's performance was appreciated by noted performing arts personalities, besides a huge audience comprising of children from various schools, representatives of various organization, NGOs, friends and well-wishers of SBT.

Puppetry has also come out of trenches to be a mainstream performing art at SBT. In association with noted Ishara Group for puppetry, SBT children have formed a puppetry team to raise awareness on the HIV/AIDS menace. Popular with children and adults alike, through the year it held 30 shows at reputed schools like IIT Delhi, DPS, Delhi Haat, Karnal, Bombay etc. and NGOs to spread its message in innovative way.

#### **Networking and advocacy:**

SBT actively networks with other NGOs in the field, which enables us to pool resources that can be deployed to benefit street and working children in Delhi. At the same time, the collective strength built up by these NGOs is also utilized in advocacy initiatives to enhance the accountability of the state towards child rights and childcare. While believing fully in the rights- based approach to development, SBT also seek to create common opportunities and common points of action with the government and other stakeholders. To further this objective, SBT has developed a continuing relationship with, among others, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the Department of Education, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & Delhi State Aids Control Society.

A brilliant collaborative initiative under the leadership of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment & N.I.S.D. was taken in the form of a joint training of Members of CWC & JJB members & officers of Department of Social Welfare. The training focused on the rights of children under the JJ Act 2001.

#### **Childline**

Childline is a unique initiative, which brings Government and NGOs together in the service of children in distress. Operating round the clock, Childline provides a toll-free number, which enables children to access emergency, and/or long-term help relevant to their needs

– whether rescue, rehabilitation, medical aid or support services. Childline is supported by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and operationalized by NGOs with extensive experience in, and commitment to, the field of child support.

SBT looks after the Central Zone for Delhi's Childline service. This year, 53,372 children in distress dialed the Childline emergency services in our Zone. SBT provided these children an array of services, including rescue, shelter, medical help, repatriation, emotional guidance and educational support. 1331 cases required direct intervention, of which 31 children were provided medical support, 379 children were taken into shelter, and 357 children were reunited with their families after repatriation. Childline Central Zone has the distinction of dealing with the largest number of repatriation cases.

### **Night outreach**

The darkness of a dead night enhances the vulnerability of a street child manifold. SBT night outreach aims to identify these utmost vulnerable children and bring them to safe surroundings of the SBT. The focus of the intervention is on integrating those girl children to the program who can be seen only in the dead of the night. It has also helped spread the awareness of the availability of services to the nocturnal creatures. This year a total of 217 children were accessed through the night outreach. While four of them were restored back to their families, 16 received emergency Childline services. All the children accessed also received non-formal education.

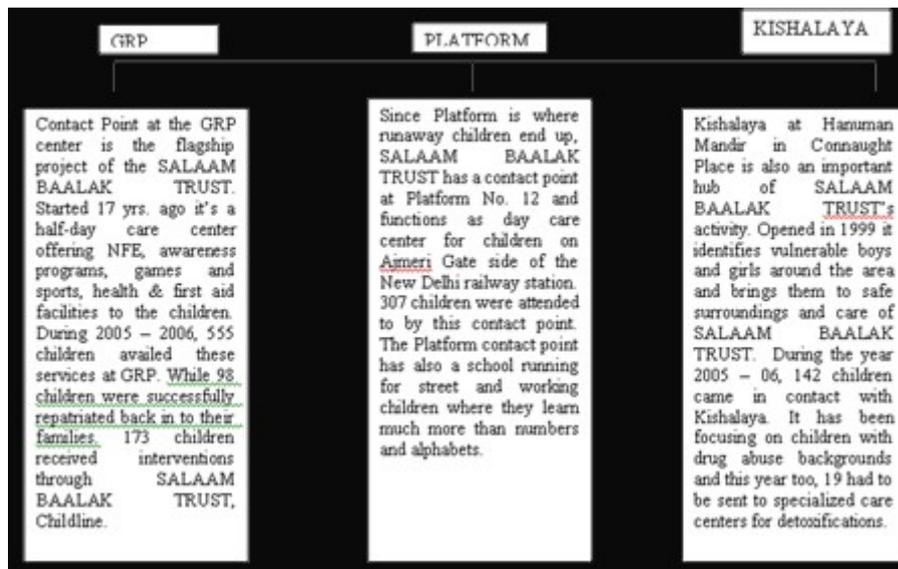
## **PROGRAMS**

### **Contact Points**

SALAAM BAALAK TRUST aims to provide a safe, healthy and caring atmosphere to children who are on the fringes of society. They have either been renounced by their families or chasing their dreams they have landed up in alien and hostile lands. SALAAM BAALAK TRUST intervenes through a variety services at different levels to prevent children from ending up in streets, uncared for. Contact points, shelter and outreach are its link to hordes of children who are in the dire needs of the services.

Contact points identify street, runaway or abused children and bring them to the care of SALAAM BAALAK TRUST. Primarily contact points provide initial attention to children and have a peep into the lives of the children. As far as possible contact points attempt to repatriate the children back to their families. Where the repatriation is not feasible children are send for repatriation in full care shelter of SALAAM BAALAK TRUST or other agency depending upon their needs.

Contact points also function as day care shelter for working children providing them food, clothing, medial aid and place to unwind. Many of the children coming to contact points have high-risk behavior and therefore they are also exposed to initial education on health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS, STDs and drugs and substance abuse etc.



**Prerna:** Prerna is a unique intervention working with children who are living with their families but devoid of their childhood, these are children who have never seen anything else than parents and never chased any dreams but their prospective customers to sell them balloons, small toys, flowers etc. These are the children who sell these things to supplement meager income of their families. **Prerna** is getting hugely popular with street children -girls & boys alike. Prerna inculcates healthy habits, interest in education and social awareness in these children besides providing them food and nutrition, clothing, primary health services, life skill education and opportunity of recreation with their peers. This year Prerna inspired lives of 61 children in ways more than one.

#### SHELTER HOMES

**SALAAM BAALAK TRUST** runs four shelter homes and 24-hour full care shelter for children, one being devoted to girl children. These shelter homes provide all services that childhood or adolescence can ask for. They aim at restoring the childhood in children besides instilling in them the values of independence and decision-making, education and social values and financial self-dependence to become mature and responsible citizen of the country and caring and responsive members of the society.



**AASRA:** Aasra provide shelter to boys between 5 to 12 years. Established in 1992 at Paharganj, it is the earliest program of SALAAM BAALAK TRUST. This year Aasra received and provided shelter to 598 children out of those 254 were restored happily to

their families. Besides receiving non-formal education few children were admitted to reputed schools like DAV, Air Force Bal Bharti, Vidhya Public etc.

**APNA GHAR:** Presently Apna Ghar is home for 60 boys in the age group of 10 to 18 years. Since 1999 it strives to bring lost street/ runaway children into the folds of society and prepare them for integration in to the mainstream. Extraordinary talent in performing arts has been a tradition at Apna Ghar, which was kept alive this year also. Our own Salim acted in Little Terrorist produced by Ashwin Kumar & we got chance to act next film of Mr. Ashwin Kumar "The Forest". Children of Apna Ghar staged a spectacular show on the 17th anniversary of SALAAM BAALAK TRUST.

**DROP IN SHELTER:** Set up in 1997, Drop in Shelter caters to the specific needs of adolescent between 14 to 18 years. It respect there longing for freedom, information to experiment and eagerness to be self-dependent. While it attends to their emotional fragility by expert guidance and counseling it also focuses on vocational training in variety of skills. Drop in Shelter reached out to 274 children during the year through its various interventions and helped 92 children have happy reunion with their families.

**ARUSHI:** Arushi is specially designed to address the needs of girl child. It is an exclusive girl child shelter and responses intuitively to the needs of vulnerable girls. Since 1999, besides providing a safe and caring atmosphere, it inculcates skills, which go on to make them a confident, self-respecting and economically active being. This year Arushi provided shelter to 66 girls in different age groups. We are happy to have 29 girls restored back to their families and we are proud to have enabled three girls become completely self-dependent.

## **OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**AKANKSHA:** Akanksha is an outreach program targeted at the neighbouring slum communities. It is rather a preventive intervention aimed at saving the children from these communities ending up in streets. While children are helped with formal, non-formal, bridge and remedial educational assistance, the program also seeks to organize the women of community in the SHGs, encourage them to initiate saving and thrift and micro credit program. Adult education, primary health care and awareness on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other life threatening and crippling diseases also form a major component of the program. This year SBT direct interventions helped 102 children out of whom 63 were admitted in the formal schools and 36 of them linked to various modes of non-formal education. Besides, 2115 people from the community received first aid and other primary health care services. Polio drops were also administered to 612 community children.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

Health post started at G.R.P., New Delhi railway station for all street children need of medical support – specially screening for Tuberculosis, since tuberculosis is rampant amongst the runaway kids.

City walk started by SBT children & initiated by John, a dynamic volunteer from England

Foundation stone laid down for own building of SBT for girl child shelter in Gurgaon  
Five children & one staff were invited for a trip to London in the Sahara inaugural flight to London

Drug de-addiction awareness program organized by SBT with collaboration of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in Central Delhi.

Salim, hero of Oscar nominated film "Little Terrorist" selected to act in Ashwin

Kumar's next film "The Forest"

Haran from Apna Ghar shelter home participated in a photography workshop and he organized an exhibition of his work in the Habitat center. His photographs were highly appreciated and was picked up by the Times of India as a photo journalist.

#### Major Achievements of Salaam Baalak Trust

Total beneficiaries	3350 children
Shelter provided	998 children
Restore back to families	525 children
Placed to other NGO	118 children
Children in formal school	184 children
Received non formal education	2121 children
Received education through NIOS	73 children (3rd-7, 5th -8, 8th -21, 10th -27, 12th -10)
Through IGNOU	01 child
Through DU	03 children
Admitted to vocational training course	130 children (In different trade-70, computer training -60)
Placed in different jobs	35 children (Renika export, Pizza hut, export co., Gurgaon, Coffee Caffe Day, Mulchand Motors, Orient Craft etc.)

#### Medical:

Medical checkups	1556
Ref. to hospital	526
Hospitalization	59
Operated	16
Hepatitis B	159
Tetanus injection	183
Polio drops	656 (community)
Medical investigation	384
Long-term treatment	39 (T.B, injuries etc.)

HIV test	91
STD case	12
Cases ref. to mental health	49 (emotional disorder, behavioural disorder etc.)
LSE	496 sessions held
Health camps	4 camps-(54 screened in 1 eye camp, 105 screened in 1 dental camp, 354 screened in 2 general health camps)
Health awareness	2 (400 children and 20000 general public participated)
Referral of children for detoxification - 61 boys referred to Sharan and Muskan	

- **Annual tour - organized for 120 children of Apna Ghar, Aasra, Arushi shelters to Manalil for 9 days.**
- **Annual play - from 10---12 January 2006, the play on 16th anniversary of Salaam Baalak Trust, Apna Ghar's production entitled Kalpnaon Ki Udaan is directed by Kapil Dev the production has been staged at LTG Auditorium, at Mandi House. More than 2500 audience including school children have enjoyed the play and applauded the performance. Second day, Silver and Bronze level certificates were given to the participants of Award program. The certificates were distributed by Mrs. Jyotsna Govil of the Award program**
- **Annual Dance - on 11th March 2006, the dance and drama program entitled 'War of Kalinga' was staged at India International Center. Children, guests, dignitaries and donors of SBT observed the program**
- **Stree Shakti program organized in June 2005**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SBT is sustained entirely through the support and encouragement of a number of individuals and organization that are deeply committed to the betterment of the lives of street children. SBT children, staff & management express their heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

## **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports our shelter homes Aasra & Apna Ghar. We are thankful to the Government of India & Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for enabling us to make impact on the lives of children in ways more than one.

## **YOUTH REACH**

Youth Reach has been instrumental in the skill enhancement of children in various child friendly ways. It has also made available to us a number of committed and sensitive volunteers who have helped children learn many art forms & become self- sufficient. It has done wonders with the empowerment and self-esteem of children. Besides, it has also

enabled us market the products made by our children. We feel short of words to express gratitude to them

### **CARE FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AND AGING (CFCA)**

CFCA is a US based agency, which facilitates the sponsorship program over 26 countries globally. It facilitates fostering and enhancing comprehensive and holistic development of children and care for aging. So far, the has benefited 300 children. Today, we have 75 children sponsored in this program. It is a unique program, which ties people with resources with people in needs. CFCA program has been able to play a vital role for their holistic development.

The programs supports education and remedial education including books and stationeries, school fee, uniform and food to the shelter boys and mid day meal to the community children, medical facilities including medical check ups, medicines, immunization, emergency medical help, entertainment, outing etc. We are grateful to the august agency and people for their cooperation and support.

### **US AID/ FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL**

“United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Family Health International (FHI) have partnered with SBT since October 1999 in a HIV prevention project with around 4,000 street and working children at and around New Delhi Railway Station. Currently the project provides youth and children with life skills education with particular emphasis on health promotion and preventing HIV/AIDS; promote access to health services and psychosocial support; strengthen repatriation back to families; provide vocational training and job placements; and capacity building of staff. We are highly indebted to the USAID and FHI for their encouragement and support.”

### **CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION**

The mission of CAF has been to enhance the fund raising capacity of the voluntary organization committed to the cause of humanity. It also encourages individual & organizations to donate and help generously voluntary organization through its program “Give as you earn”. It has supported SBT for the last six years. We most humbly salute their sincere efforts.

### **CHILDREN’S HOPE INC**

**We are grateful to Children’s Hope Incorporated (USA) for extending support to the cause of street & working children. Children’s Hope supports our girl child project-Arushu shelter homes. The Samtani family through Children’s Hope is very generous donor and supporting SBT for the past 04 years.**

### **ELSEVIER FOUNDATION**

Financial support from Elsevier Foundation has helped us strengthen our Mental Health Program and have enabled us in starting special education classes for the special children in our shelter homes.

### **GIVE FOUNDATION**

Salaam Baalak Trust has gained enormously from its association with Give Foundation in ways more than one. We sincerely acknowledge our regards for their endeavors.

### **GLOBAL FUND FOR CHILDREN (GFC)**

Education, health & vocational training programs in 24 hour Drop in shelter have been supported by Global Fund for Children. We express sincere gratitude to this kind gesture. GFC's grant provides general support for SBT's Drop-in-shelter, which provides boys with a safe environment to sleep, eat, and receive counseling, tutoring, and skills training away from the drug dealers, sexual predators etc. who routinely harass the boys on the streets.

### **MAMTA HEALTH INSTITUTE FOR THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD**

We extend our hearty gratitude to MAMTA HIV/AIDS Alliance for their kind support for HIV/AIDS Care & Support program. The program has been of great help in building the capacity of the organization & to address the care & support issues needs of street & working children living in and around the New Delhi railway station.

### **THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, INDIA**

Award India program has been instrumental in holistic development of our children. The program has not only encouraged our children to the world of expeditions and adventures but have also instilled in them values, life skill & voluntarism.

### **AIDS TO ARTISANS**

Financial support from Aids to Artisans has enabled many of our children to move towards a life of dignity and self-sustenance.

### **THE PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION (U. K.)**

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has been kind enough to support our 24 hour Drop in shelter at Katra Karim, which has helped us make possible a world of opportunities to children. We are highly grateful.

### **UDV Pvt. Ltd.**

The acknowledgement to our supporters would be incomplete without expressing our appreciation for the UDV. UDV has been supporting Vocational Training and enabling children to learn competitive life skills.

### **UNODC**

We are highly grateful to UNODC to support to identifying drug-addicted children and send them for detoxification