



Newsletter January - March 2014

## Empowering through Education



### Together we achieve more

Children cheering and screaming chants of “Together we win” and “Just do it” broke the peace of a quiet Sunday morning in Powai. The screams got louder as the children donned their house colours and marched proudly, waving to a cheering audience. The Udaan Sports Day brought together 50 volunteers and 500 children for a day full of competitive races and group games.

**Together we achieve more** is a core Udaan value that we live by and inculcate in all our children. We at Udaan, believe that collaboration is key to achieving our goals and move closer to our vision. A vibrant team spirit, effective teamwork and mutually beneficial partnerships with like-minded individuals and organisations enable us to have a greater impact. We are privileged to have corporate partners, educational partners, dedicated staff and volunteers who come together to share knowledge, skills, and resources to transform the lives of our beneficiaries.

The last quarter was a reaffirmation of this core value. From preparing the children for the science exhibition, creating the Roman Colosseum with cardboard and thermacol, showing a bunch of dreamy eyed children the Bandra Worli sea link or teaching them different dance forms of India, it is because of the coming together of our committed volunteers and partner organisations that we were able to provide such learning opportunities to our children.

Thank you to all our volunteers and partner organisations for being our pillars of strength.

### Key Engagements

## January

- **JLT employees** showed their support to Udaan as they walked hand in hand with the Udaan team at the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon.
- Led by **Asit Bhaiya**, Udaan alumni visited the IIT Techfest and were inspired by how young leaders are changing the world through technology and innovation.
- Thanks to **KOOH Sports**, Udaan children had the opportunity of racing with some of the budding athletes of our country at the Speedstar event in Mumbai.

## February

- The Annual Sports Day brought together the Udaan family with volunteers from many of our partner organisations, **JLT, Nomura, General Mills, Atma, Give India** and **KOOH Sports** for a day full of sport activities.
- Udaan children had the opportunity to see the migratory flamingos at Sewri creek, thanks to **SPROUTS Environmental Trust** and volunteers from **General Mills**.

## March

- Students of grade 7 & 8 visited the Prince of Wales Museum together with volunteers from **Nomura** and came back with stories of taxidermy, museology and the treasures of history.
- On Women's Day, a group of enthusiastic **General Mills volunteers** and **team BAIF** invited 30 mothers of Udaan children for a morning of fun and learning.
- Udaan children were invited by **Victory Arts Foundation** to visit Kidzania and live for a day their dreams of becoming a pilot, a movie star and more.
- As part of the **Tata Engage** Volunteer Programme, the Trent group volunteers conducted a workshop for the students of our Computer Centre on importance of communication and interpersonal skills
- A group of Udaan children participated in the Annual **CMCA Utsav** and proudly presented their ideas on saving the environment.
- The Udaan children got a standing ovation at the "JLT's got Talent" a talent show organized by our corporate partner **JLT** when they proudly presented their dance with the theme: Our India, one India.



### Mumbai Marathon

**Udaan children soaked in the spirit and energy of the Mumbai marathon** as they waved to the cheering onlookers and proudly carried their placards to show a child's journey at Udaan, from kindergarten through school years to employability.

The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) is the biggest charity



### Annual Sports Day

**Beaming smiles, electrifying energy, vibrant team spirit, amazing teamwork** is what best describes the Udaan Annual Sports Day.

The day, which opened with the Udaan anthem "Hum honge kaamyab", was a celebration of values that each child must uphold: Compassion, Determination, Confidence, Faith and



event in India and is revered for the emotional connect it establishes in the hearts and minds of the Mumbaikars. It is a great platform that cuts across social and economic barriers and brings together people from all walks of life to raise awareness about different causes. We were proud to be a part of the SCMM 2014 and Udaan alumni walked together with employees of our corporate partner, Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) for the cause of education.

With the JLT Didi's and Bhaiya's leading the way, the children walked the Dream Run dancing, singing and waving to the cheering Mumbaikars. For some children it was also an opportunity to see some of the city's iconic landmarks like Victoria Terminus or walk the famous Marine Drive, something they had only read or heard of. Truly a memorable day etched in the minds of all.

Thank you JLT for being our partners in change.

Happiness. Each of these values was represented by a house colour: Green, Red, Orange, Blue and Yellow.

The day marked with fun races, individual races and house games brought active participation from all – children, parents, volunteers and staff. Determination on the faces of children lining up at the starting line, a sense of achievement on those climbing the victory stands, chants of, “Go Tayappa, go” and “Jeetega bhayee jeetega, blue house jeetega” to encourage the participants made the day a memorable one for all. After a close finish, the Green House led by the Nomura volunteers was declared the winners of the group games and proudly showed off their trophy to the cheering audience.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers from Atma, General Mills, JLT, Nomura, Give India, KOOH Sports and individual volunteers – Himanshi, Rajiv, Ginni and Shilpa who made this event a super success.



### **Women's Day**

**On the 9th of March, the women of Sangharsh Nagar danced for the first time.**

Initially, there was a little awkwardness, but soon, the music stirred up the human desire to let loose, enjoy and everyone danced as if no one was watching. While they danced, one could see the mischief in their eyes and the girlish giggles behind the pallus.

The dance set the tone of this year's Women's Day celebration at Udaan, which was led by a team of passionate volunteers from General Mills and members from BAIF, experts in sustainable livelihoods. The session began with an a presentation and



### **Making A Difference**

**"Every time I leave from my office and I see a bus full of Udaan kids shouting Bhaiya! at the top of their voice, I am overwhelmed with joy."**

Vipul Bharadwaj, who gives us an insight into his volunteer experience at Udaan in this newsletter, has been volunteering with us for the past 4 years.

"I still remember my first day of volunteering at Udaan, it was March 13th 2010. On that warm summer afternoon I had gone to teach English to a group of grade 5 children and that day changed my life. The 2 hours that I spent teaching were so gratifying that I

discussion on Indian thali, its nutritional value and its impact on the health of the family. The team of General Mills made every effort to make this interesting – from making ragi halwa for each, presenting with audio-visuals, to prompting the mothers with years of experience to share their recipes.

The second session was led by BAIF, who demonstrated how one can create a kitchen garden and grow their own vegetables and herbs in limited space. The women were given seeds, saplings and the accompanying paraphernalia to plant their first tomato and curry plant.

It was through the efforts of General Mills and BAIF together, that a group of women have memories of a special day to cherish. It is thanks to this coming together of all that we achieved a seemingly small change of impacting 30 women and we are sure they will share their learning with other community members and future generations.

have been a part of the Udaan family ever since."

"Over the past 4 years I have seen the children progressing really well and Udaan provides them not only education but listens to them to understand their needs, helps them choose the right path and guides them to select a career and later find a job. When you work with Udaan you see the results and that keeps you motivated."

"My experience of volunteering with Udaan has been exhilarating. I eagerly wait to meet the kids, teachers and other volunteers and the time I spend with them is the best part of my week."

"The future road map that Udaan has planned for itself is impressive and I wish to be a part of their successful journey and help them in whatever little way I can in all their future endeavors."

Thank you Vipul Bhaiya for "being the change".

## Glimpses of our Sports Day



**Udaan is positively impacting over 800 children from low-income communities through their educational initiatives.**

**To get involved and be our partners in change contact us:**

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