

# Karm Marg 3rd quarterly report 2012

The last quarter of 2012 has seen Karm Marg in a phase of transition. As mentioned in the last newsletter we will not bring in any new children till we have constructed a new living quarter for the boys. The construction finally got underway on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December and once it is complete we will reapply for a license and take in new children. The new living arrangements will mean that the quality of life will improve and we will be able to accommodate a significantly larger number of children than ever before.

At present we have 17 Boys 3 of them are special children and 12 girls two of whom are special children.

## Home

As usual there have been a number of activities and an even larger number of comings and goings.

October is the month of festivals and this year Dushehra fell on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The children had a great time celebrating the victory of good over evil with the help of sweets and music from the latest Bollywood offerings. This was followed by Diwali on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. The children made their own candles to beautifully light up the entire campus.

We had a visit from our Spanish friend and long term volunteer Maggi as well as a visitor from Mukti foundation Rathurlan over Christmas. They brought many gifts for all the children. Everyone had lots of cake and sweets and danced late into the night. This year we also had a Christmas tree. All of us had a great time decorating it with trinkets made out of waste materials.

We have always had a children's group to deal with child related issues, but this time we formalized it according to the laws and called it the Child Protection Committee. The names of the committee members are registered with the district child protection officer in Faridabad.

Sangeeta was rehabilitated and has now settled back with her mother. Saurabh was rehabilitated at Naz Foundation East of Kailash, Delhi after he got a job in a well know company in Okhla. It was very difficult for him to commute every day from Faridabad to Okhla.

The child protection committee in Faridabad has seen some resurgence and they now visit all the children's homes in their area once every two months on unannounced inspection visits. They came to Karm Marg on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, followed by another visit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.

## Education

Our staff has been in close contact with the school teachers over each child's progress the last months. This effort has begun to bear fruit and all the children showed a marked improvement in their test results. As result o this interaction we also organized extra tuition classes for five of the kids.

Our special need children are doing very well, they participated in the Ramlila (enactment of the story of Rama). Mahua played the role of Ravana, Anmika played Sita and Raju became Hanumaan. They learnt new skills like candle and greeting card making on Diwali and Christmas and also started working on block printing, papier-mâché and bookmarks out of kite paper.

Saira's model of a water treatment plant was selected for the science exhibition at govt Girls Sr. Sec, School Ballabgarh organized by the district education center.

Ruby and Basant are doing well at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. They are enjoying their training, baking and food processing by Basant and screen-printing, book-binding by Rubi.

Deepak managed to get into art school in Modinagar and is enjoying his studies very much. His teachers are giving him good feedback.

## Health

Only two special children fell sick during this time. Raju had to undergo a complete diagnostic test and the doctors found that he had problems with his thyroid. He is now diligently taking his dose of Thyroxin first thing every morning.

Manu was suffering from high fever and his hemoglobin was very low. As he needs special care, we had admitted him at the Naz Foundation. He is much better now and taking regular medicine.

## Highlights

We had the PVR group (Cinema Corporation) over to conduct a road safety workshop for our kids on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. All the children participated and learnt many new things.

Five of our kids, Kusum, Rahul, Abdul, Anmol and Sagar in the age group 10 -14, took part in an art workshop organized by Art Escape between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October on the weekends. A first of its kind, the objective of the workshop was to take the children to a historical monument, narrate to them the history of Delhi and tell them about the importance of preserving our heritage. The children then made a huge combined art work based on what they had learnt. They used various methods, like painting on stones, photography, and collage making.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, all the Children had an outing to the local cinema to watch the film "Oh my God". A comedy full of valuable lessons about superstition and belief.

Ten children participated in a road safety workshop from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December. As a part of this workshop they learnt filmmaking and had a great time playing with cameras and computers.

Bollywood lyric writers Anurag Gupta and Varun Grover conducted a storytelling workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Saira, Shama, Rahul(B) Rahul(S) Govinda, Tara, Vipin, Bably, Vikranta, Iqbal and Rukshar participated in the workshop. The group wrote the lyrics for a musical play, which they are planning to perform on KM founding day, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## Vocational training

This year we have had career counseling to find out what skills and interest youngsters might have outside of what Karm Marg usually provides them. Given the current economic state of affairs, we now need to be able to come up with new product lines, which can generate better income opportunities for them.

Skill training is now compulsory for all the children after the age of 14. We also started a system of participatory report writing with the children. Updated on a weekly basis, in future these reports will be used as a baseline for follow up actions.

The beginning of October saw two children go for vocational training at the Aurobindo Ashram. Ruby trained in screen printing while Basant trained in baking and food processing.

Amrendra our new manager and Pooja held a career planning and future building workshop on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. Govinda, Rahul(B) shyara, Shama, Vipin, Rajkumar, Vikranta, Tara and Rukshar attended the workshop and had a chance to discuss some of their aspirations for the future. There will be a follow up session with our career counselor Navneet in the coming weeks.

## About team

Ms. Indu joined Karm Marg as a designer as also to teach children various forms of art and craft.

Ms. Guneet our wonderful and energetic designer and production-in-charge has left us to be with her family. She has left a huge gap that will be difficult to fill and we miss her very much.

Our staff and children attended a human rights workshop held by ICDS on the 10<sup>th</sup> December the International Human Rights Day, at Aggarwal Public School, Faridabad

## Volunteer participation

Vijay a volunteer from Faridabad is helping us with costing and stock entry at our production unit. He works for a local corporate house and will be helping out with the marketing of our products.

Ranjit our alumni conducted a workshop on making artistic things out of waste for our children.

## Jugaad

The festival season is a very busy time for Jugaad. The demand for our products has increased and there was a lot of pressure on us to complete pending orders and have everything ready for the various exhibitions we participated in.

The Nature Bazaar organized by Dastkar took place in November. This is one of our biggest supports and we show-case all our new products there.

We have started our online shop with the collaboration of itokri - <http://www.itokri.com/collections/jugaad-all-products>. Our sales have been picking up slowly and steadily.

Mountain adventure a travel agency, we have also started working with them. We make cloth bags which the travel agency buys from us to give to each of their European clients. They also collect donations for us. This helps in creating more awareness about Karm Marg and generates more relationships, support, income and funds. We are very thankful for their support.

## Upcoming Project

We plan to start a bakery unit in December but due to unforeseen problems it will be now start in the beginning of March.

## Needs and Challenges

According to the requirements of CWC we have to appoint qualified staff. We urgently need a warden for the boys; a senior coordinator; a counselor and a tutor. There is a dearth of qualified professionals and given our remote location and associated transport costs and difficulties, it is a huge challenge for us to fill these positions.

The new infrastructure we started building is near completion. Thanks to all your efforts and support. We still need some financial help to meet our costs. The new infrastructure will house more staff and separate the living quarters of the boys from the girls.

Our disabled children have been taking individual training to enhance their ability to participate in everyday and vocational activities. They have shown a lot of progress over the last year and we would like them to continue the training for another year. However the costs involved are very high and we need to find new avenues to support them.

Price hikes in electricity, water, diesel, petrol and cooking gas etc...are still giving us hard time. We now have to find more ways of reducing our running costs and to increase our self-sustainability.

Times are tough but our enthusiasm is still high and your support keeps us going and hoping for the best.

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