



ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 2010

RELIEF FOUNDATION
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RELIEF FOUNDATION

-guiding children into happy families



Chairperson's note

Over the years, as you have been noticing, our focus has been shifting towards education. This year has completed that shift. Gradually, we have learnt significant lessons through our interaction with schools, teachers and children. We have realized that one way to impact children's lives' is through their teachers. To that end, we actively sensitize teachers to children's needs and behaviors and empower them by strengthening their teaching skills.

Within education, our areas of focus have been

1. Teacher capacity building
2. School improvement - partnering with schools to address their academic needs while establishing administrative systems that enable these academics reforms
3. Small School Initiatives - continuing our work with two small schools, Vichur (near Manali, Chennai) and Reddyvaripalle (Chitoor District, A.P.)
4. Creative Resource Center - experiences through CASCADE (our Creative Resource Center) have made us realize the importance of such centers in close proximity to schools

We have an increased stake in supporting the work of Shriram Foundation (CSR wing of Shriram Group of Companies); the number of beneficiaries and the quality of service rendered has dramatically increased over the last two years.

Our initiatives were aided by a number of volunteers who came from various parts of the world. Their skills and expertise have addressed significant needs in seminal ways for which we are forever indebted. We were especially touched to note that many of the volunteers were extremely proactive and didn't wait for our recommendations; we sincerely appreciate their initiative and drive.

Last but not least, our work would not have been possible without your contributions. Your continued support is invaluable, and we deem it a great privilege to have you by our side as our donor and friend; it has not only made our progress possible but has raised our own expectations to do much more.

Vision: To empower children and families to secure a safe and better future for themselves.

Mission: To harness resources, partnerships, and associations to provide quality and timely service for children and in turn their communities.

History and areas of expertise

Founded in 1998, Relief Foundation was set up with the aim to prevent the exploitation of children. We provided counseling and direct support for affected children and sought to bring a greater degree of humanity to the juvenile justice system in Tamil Nadu.

The insights gathered during the years have all pointed to the need for safe, accessible, and engaging learning spaces for children. Today, our small team of educationists, corporate professionals and activists bring their unique experiences towards the one common agenda of improving the future of our children's education.

We promote positive student development through safe schools; caring relationships; challenging experiences; opportunities for voice, choice and contribution; and more personalized, relevant instruction. From helping underserved communities establish small, quality schools, to initiating school reform programs that train teachers, to monitoring and assessment, we employ a multi-pronged approach to improving education.

Major events in 2009- 2010

1. Our partnership with Navadisha Montessori Institute has helped us establish pre-primary classrooms in 5 schools, each one conducive to 'joyous' learning.
2. Our work at Reddy Varipalli (VSR Montessori School) took on new dimensions as we laid the foundation for new classrooms. The new facilities will be functional from Sept 2010.
3. We are now positioned to provide targeted training for Pre-Primary and Primary teachers. This year saw approximately 50 teachers complete our training.
4. This year marked our first foray in providing a Leadership Development Workshop specifically aimed at Principals and School Heads. We sought to create awareness of the various needs of a school through dialogue and discussions; our conversations with the Principals proved mutually beneficial. Ten candidates attended the 12 day workshops, spaced out over 6 months.

5. Two seminars were organized on
 - a. Raising Peaceful and Happy Children – Alternative Schooling Perspectives
 - b. Early Childhood Education & Developmentally Appropriate Practices – Dr. Saigeetha Jambunathan, Asst. Professor, University of New Jersey, U.S.A.
6. CASCADE was an extremely active resource centre though 2009, enabling children from our partner schools to explore, experiment and generally have fun while learning a few things!
7. We have partnerships with three schools in Tamil Nadu to provide teacher capacity building and curricular interventions. The three schools are:
 - a. Sree Karpagavalli Vidyalaya, Mylapore. Chennai
 - b. Sri Sri Vidya Mandir, Anaikoil, Nagapattinam
 - c. Shriram Matriculation School, Thiruneermalai, Chennai

Future Plans

- 1) Consolidate and systematize Teacher Education Program
- 2) Invite select schools to partner with us on overall school improvement
- 3) VSR School:
 - a. recruit new teachers
 - b. setup curriculum
 - c. initiate community outreach program
- 4) Increase volunteer and donor base through our new website (to be deployed by August 2010)
- 5) Setup Resource Center at Shriram Matriculation School, Thiruneermalai (August-September 2010)
- 6) Setup a Montessori Elementary Environment (for children of ages 6-9 years) to provide children an opportunity to supplement their learning at school (Jan 2011)
- 7) In an effort to serve a larger population and to be more accessible to our partner schools, we have moved our Resource Center from Thoraiakkam to Thirvanmiyur.

Core Team

Vidya Shankar	V.Chithra
R.Kumar	Pallavi Phatak
C.V.Vinod	Navneeth Thirumalai
P. Malathi Devi	

Volunteer Experts:

Jana Conrad – who has expertise in the area of Sports Education and has introduced a new curriculum for teachers at our partner school and at Shriram IGNOU Community College.

Dr. Saigeetha Jambunathan - who has extensive knowledge on early childhood education and Developmentally Appropriate Practices.

Volunteers who worked with children:

Ambika Chandrashekar	Deepa Balasubramaniam
Sheila Rajagopal	Mohammad Rasul Pasha
Usha Pillai	V. Venkhatapriya
N.Vishal	K. Durgadevi
Ms. Rengamani	Jeevitha
Nervan Talha	Peter Ferdinand
Jyothi Raghu	Volunteers from Teach India
Devika Natarajan	

Volunteer Field Workers

Two students, S.Sree Murugan and R. Sridhar from XIME, Bangalore conducted an industrial survey of SIDCO, Thirumudivakkam to identify prospective companies that would be interested in partnering with Shriram IGNOU Community College. They also suggested syllabus frameworks for industry-related courses.

Work of Our International Volunteers during 2009-2010:

Name	Place	Details of Activities
Sarah Rutton	USA	Set up a curriculum for Primary English Teachers
Kiril Hadjiev Josie Stewart	UK	Taught children at Sree Karpagavalli Vidyalaya, Mylapore & Shriram Matriculation School, Thiruneermalai the use of juggling balls and poi.

International Volunteer Feedback

Sarah Ruttan, Tucson, AZ, U.S.

I had the pleasure of volunteering for the Relief Foundation during July of 2009. As an experienced educator with a Masters in Reading Instruction, I had the opportunity to collaborate with Relief staff members on curriculum for teaching English to standards two and three. During my time in Chennai, I helped to write a unit plan consisting of ten lessons for teaching beginning readers basic skills and strategies for learning the English language. While working on the project, I had the opportunity to interact with students and teachers at the Relief center as well as the local school that they were partnering with. This collaboration allowed me to grow as a professional as I learned about an educational system very different from the one in which I work.

Perhaps the biggest realization I came to during the course of my work and numerous conversations with colleagues at Relief is that the issues that schools and educators here in India face are in some ways very similar to those in the U.S. We are both struggling to understand how we can better reach underserved students and make curriculum relevant to the lives of children so that they are engaged in their studies. Both systems face the struggle of how to best deliver English instruction to second language learners. We have much to learn from each other's successes. I am looking forward to sharing the work happening here with my colleagues in the U.S.

I am grateful to the staff of Relief Foundation for the opportunity that they gave me to engage in dialogue and collaboration on their important work. I am leaving India impressed with the dedication that this organization shows in its mission to ensure that ALL children are educated – regardless of where they were born. I don't think I would have had nearly as enriching of an experience had I come to India simply as a tourist. I am grateful to Relief Foundation for the opportunity to engage in this professional exchange and dialogue and would highly recommend the experience to educators like myself who are interested in school reform movements. The schools and children that I pass now on the street have a face and name for me and I am leaving with a deeper understanding of the complex social issues that face contemporary India.

Associate Organizations

Shriram Foundation – for giving us the opportunity to improve services to children that they serve. We partner with them on school improvement processes and are associated with the Shriram IGNOU Community College, Thiruneermalai.

GiveLife – for providing education sponsorship support to children whom we identify and request for assistance. We provide teacher capacity building for many of the teachers who teach in schools associated with GiveLife.

Navadisha Montessori Institute – for training our pre-primary teachers and providing constant support for our programs.

Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust, Chennai – who have consistently conducted medical camps and follow-up for children in our programs.

TEACH INDIA – for providing us with volunteers regularly every year.

Interns

Five students from S.P.Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai interned at our organization. They focused on ways our partner schools can enlarge the scope of their involvement in their respective communities. We thank them for their insights and their dedication. The five students were:

Aarathi Ganapathy
Venkat Raghavan

Bharat Reddy
R. Visram

Praneeth Pentakota

Major Donors

Shriram Foundation, Chennai
Shasun Chemicals, Chennai
Officium Et Humanitase, Germany
Anonymous Donor from USA
CARE Education Helpline, UK
K.Senthilnathan, USA
Ms.Sathyanarayana, Chennai

Viveka Saravanan, UK
Lions club of Ponmanam, Chennai
Katheleen F Heggarty, UK
Paula Rane , Australia (Zonta Club)
Staff of Yokogawa India Limited
Julia Rollings, Australia

BOARD OF TRUSTEES**Ms. Vidya Shankar B. Tech –NGO Professional , Chairperson, Relief Foundation**

Experienced in training teachers up to middle school level on child rights, apt handling of student and youth behavior; for Childcare system professionals: implementation of the Juvenile Justice act; for NGOs and Corporates: volunteer training and placement; offers training and helps implement child centered approaches for teachers and childcare professionals; routinely gives Parenting and Adoption Education workshops to interested groups.

Mr.R. Kumar, M.E (Structural) – Consultant, Managing Trustee, Relief Foundation

Experienced in optimal utilisation of funds, accounting and book keeping, and the efficient running of schools. Offers expertise on civil and structural engineering, optimal utilization of resources for our organization, besides mentoring of Microschools. Also Trustee of Navadisha Educational Trust which runs a Montessori school in Velachery.

Mr. C. V Vinod A.M.I. E – General Manager (BSNL), Treasurer, Relief Foundation

Experienced in training and orientation of staff on personal productivity and organizational efficiency, has had practical experiences of rehabilitating displaced families and children, and mobilising community and civic society participation for underprivileged. Also Trustee of Anbaham home for mentally ill orphaned males.

Relationship among board of trustees.

Mr. C. V. Vinod is the elder brother of Vidya Shankar

RELIEF FOUNDATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31. 03. 2010

Income (Rupees)	Current Year	Previous Year
	(2009-2010)	(2008-2009)
Donation Received	1861175.21	2931161.00
Bank Interest	92007.40	108877.00
Sale of Materials	2000.00	5660.00
Other income	268236.00	59000.00
Total Income	2223418.61	3104698.00
Expenditure (Rupees)	Current Year	Previous Year
	(2009-2010)	(2008-2009)
Audit fees	3850.00	3850.00
Advertisement	6674.00	6882.00
Bank Charges	2542.77	3154.00
Children Escort expenses	1644.00	3911.00
Children Dress Expenses	3600.00	13060.00
Children Vocational Training Materials	34845.00	143395.00
Computer Maintenance Expenses	9410.00	14015.00
Educational Expenses and Sponsorship	55645.00	81670.00
Feeding to Children - Expenses	0.00	134379.00
General Expenses	1551.00	6835.00
Interest Paid to Bank	2352.00	0.00
Maintenance Expenses - for Home for needy	957738.00	2066710.00
Maintenance Expenses - Resource Centre	80113.00	24414.00
Office Maintenance	21849.00	0.00
Professional Charges	3500.00	0.00
Postage and Telegram	1001.00	490.00
Printing and Stationary	46714.00	13427.00
Rent	240000.00	140000.00
Salary	268160.00	188339.00
Staff Welfare Expenses	400.00	7265.00
Telephone charges	34278.00	32957.00
Travelling and Conveyance	47898.00	54066.00
Teacher Training Expenses	188859.00	100281.00
Depreciation	61868.00	49480.00
Total Expenditure	2074491.77	3088580.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	148926.84	16118.00

Liabilities (Rupees)	Current Year	Previous Year
	(2009-2010)	(2008-2009)
Corpus Fund		
Balance as on 01.04.2009	1502993.00	
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure	148926.84	
Total 1651919.84	1502993.00	
Bank OD - Indian Bank	72407.00	
Creditor for Expenses :		
Rent Payable	0.00	20000.00
TDS Payable	1750.00	0.00
Audit Fees Payable	3850.00	3850.00
Total Liabilities	1729926.84	1526843.00
Assets (Rupees)	Current Year	Previous Year
	(2009-2010)	(2008-2009)
Fixed Assets- as per Schedule	175335.00	176188.00
Advances and Deposits - TDS	2833.00	2833.00
Cash - Fixed Deposit (Indian Bank)	1150000.00	1150000.00
Cash - Current Account (Indian Bank)	21436.51	77095.00
Cash - Current Account (American Express)	345917.80	115459.00
Cash - on Hand	34404.53	5268.00
Total Assets	1729926.84	1526843.00
As per our report of even date :		
For Sureshkumar and Ravichandran		
Chartered Accountants		

LEGAL REGISTRATION DETAILS

Registered Trust No. : 764/98 under Indian Trust Act 1970

Permanent Account Number (PAN): AATR3001 J**OUR BANKERS**

Current Account –Indian Bank

FCRA Account – Standard Chartered Bank

All donations to Relief Foundation are tax-exempt under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

Bank Details:

A/c name: Relief Foundation

Local Bank Account:

Indian Bank, Besant Nagar Branch, Besant Nagar, Chennai –600 090

Current A/c No.: 429423237

FCRA Account:

Standard Chartered Bank, 187, Mount Road, Chennai- 600002.

Savings Bank A/C No.: 421- 1- 101585 -1

(FCRA No. 075900796)

VOLUNTEER BANK
Relief Foundation
18, Sriram Nagar,
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai-600 041
India
email: reliefoundationindia@gmail.com

Application form for Volunteer position

Personal Information

Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Female Male
Name of parent/guardian: _____
Address: _____
Phone no. : _____
e-mail : _____
Education/ Qualification: _____
Reference of former volunteering: _____
(if any) _____
(Attach separate sheets if necessary) _____

Application

Volunteer Position: _____
Reasons and expectations on
Volunteering: _____

Date and Period of availability for
Volunteering _____
Planned date of start up : _____
Place and Date: Signature:

(Volunteers need to fill this form and send through email to begin the process of placement and confirmation)