



Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education

Annual Report 2013



What We Do?

Asha for Education: A secular organization dedicated to change in India by focusing on basic education in the belief that education is a critical requisite for socio-economic change. Since 1991, Asha has supported more than 800 projects all over India, disbursing nearly \$27,000,000 to projects. In 2013 alone, Asha chapters raised and disbursed more than \$2M to over 170 NGO projects.

Atlanta Chapter: Founded in 2003, has been involved with more than 30 projects, disbursing more than USD **350K**. Currently Atlanta chapter supports 8 projects collaborating with 6 different NGOs in India, impacting the lives of more than 300 students. In 2013 alone, Atlanta chapter disbursed INR 27.80 Lakh (\$48,623) to various NGO partners in India.

How do we achieve our mission?

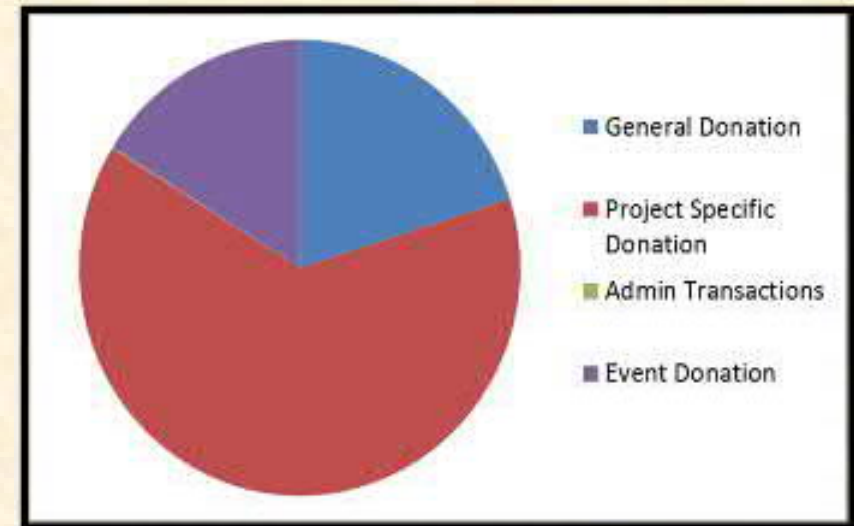
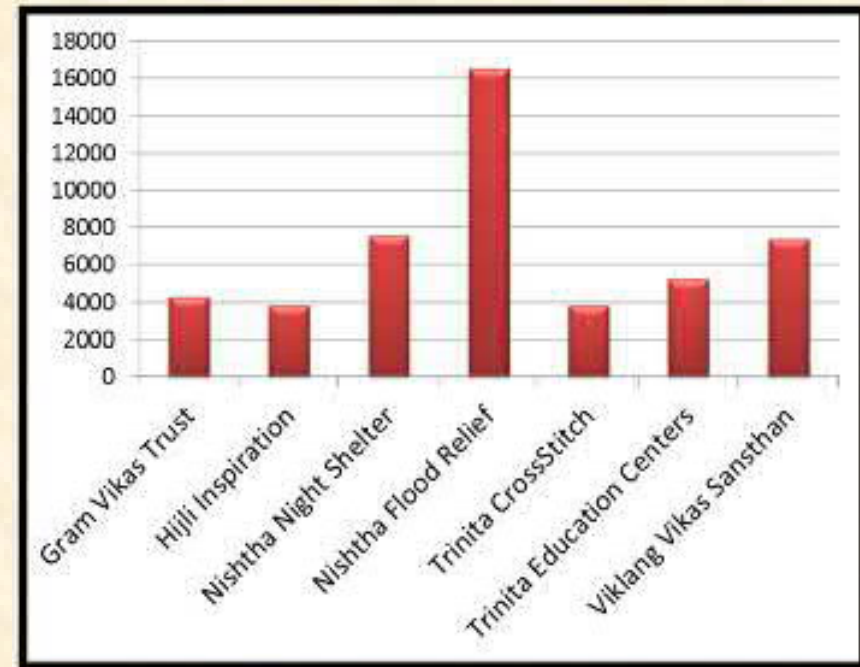
Asha project stewards create bridges between donors and projects.

By personally engaging with the NGOs, Asha creates a platform for both, learning and imparting knowledge, bringing sustainable change.

A flat and decentralized structure promotes spirit of volunteerism.

2013 Finances (Atlanta Chapter)

Starting Balance		\$34,394.90
Income	General Donation	\$12,032.80
	Project Specific Donation	\$38,028.14
	Admin Transactions	\$51
	Event Donation	\$9,631.22
Expenditure	Project Disbursals & TXN Fees	\$48,781.55
Ending Balance		\$45,356.51



Project Snapshot 1

Nishtha Night Shelter ,Baruipur, WB - Summary:

- Provide a day and night shelter to children of sex workers.
- Permanent building accommodates 30+ kids enrolled in neighboring schools.
- Tuition and other support to educate the kids & make them employable

Nishtha Night Shelter - Achievements:

- Drop out rates decreased to near ZERO
- 2 girl students are enrolled in a Government run nursing assistant course with guaranteed job placement.



Project Snapshot 2

Hijli INSPIRATION - Summary:

- Caters to children of slums and migrant workers – Tuition Support
- 2 Centers operate with more than 50 kids
- Tuition & Tiffins are provided; Cultural programs are organized

Hijli INSPIRATION - Achievements:

- Reduced drop out rates through quality of education improvement
- Conducted extra curricular activities like educational trips, drawing competition, cultural workshops to increase exposure.
- 4 Students received scholarship and 3 students received honors in their school performance.



Project Snapshot 3

Nishtha Jagaran- Damdama & Phingedhauri villages, Baruipur, WB

Summary:

- Tuition support to 43 girls enrolled in Classes X-XII to minimize dropout rates and make them employable.
- Girl empowerment training provided to 70 girls of classes V-XII.
- Clothing and school supplies to 141 girls.

Nishtha Jagaran - Achievements:

- For the first time in the history of the two villages, close to 26 girls have enrolled in Class XII in 2014.



Project Snapshot 4

Trinita Education Centers, Kolkata, West Bengal - Summary:

- 125 children from 8 slums in and around Kolkata are provided after school tuition support in math, science and English.
- Bridge programs are provided to re-enroll dropouts into regular schools.
- Tutor salaries, school supplies and snacks are provided.

Trinita Education Centers, Kolkata, West Bengal - Achievements:

- Delayed child marriage & reduced school dropout-rates by 40% since 2006.
- In 2011, four girls from the slums enrolled in 3 year college through Asha's support-a-child program.



Project Snapshot 5

Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch, Gujarat - Summary:

- Sikshana Teacher Training Program incorporates techniques to improve the quality of education in Govt. schools. Asha supports the training program for one primary school every year in Vagra Block in Gujarat.
- Bicycles provided to girl students to help them commute to remote schools and minimize middle-school dropout rates.

Gram Vikas Trust - Achievements:

- Close to 0% dropout rates regularly observed after bicycles are provided.
- Reading and writing ability of primary school children significantly improved following the Sikshana program.



Project Snapshot 6

Viklang Vikas Sansthan, Sitamarhi, Bihar - Summary:

- 40 kids in rural areas of Bihar with physical challenges.
- Funds are provided for (a) fixed cost of construction of one classroom and furnishings (b) recurring costs of the salary of the principal, one teacher, one cook, books and teaching supplies.

Viklang Vikas Sansthan - Achievements:

- Housing the children in a residential program allows the staff to instill confidence and dignity through education in a loving, caring environment.
- One student has enrolled in painting college through the efforts and support from a teacher.



Event Snapshots – Asha Restaurant Month



In April 2013, Tadka and Inchin's Bamboo Garden Restaurant in Alpharetta, GA chose Asha Atlanta's project Trinita to be the beneficiary of their month-long Asha Restaurant Month campaign.

Through Tadka's generosity, the tireless hard work of Atlanta volunteers who designed and promoted the event and most importantly, with your very benevolent and generous support of the event, Tadka raised and donated a total of \$2697 to benefit Trinita Society for Children.

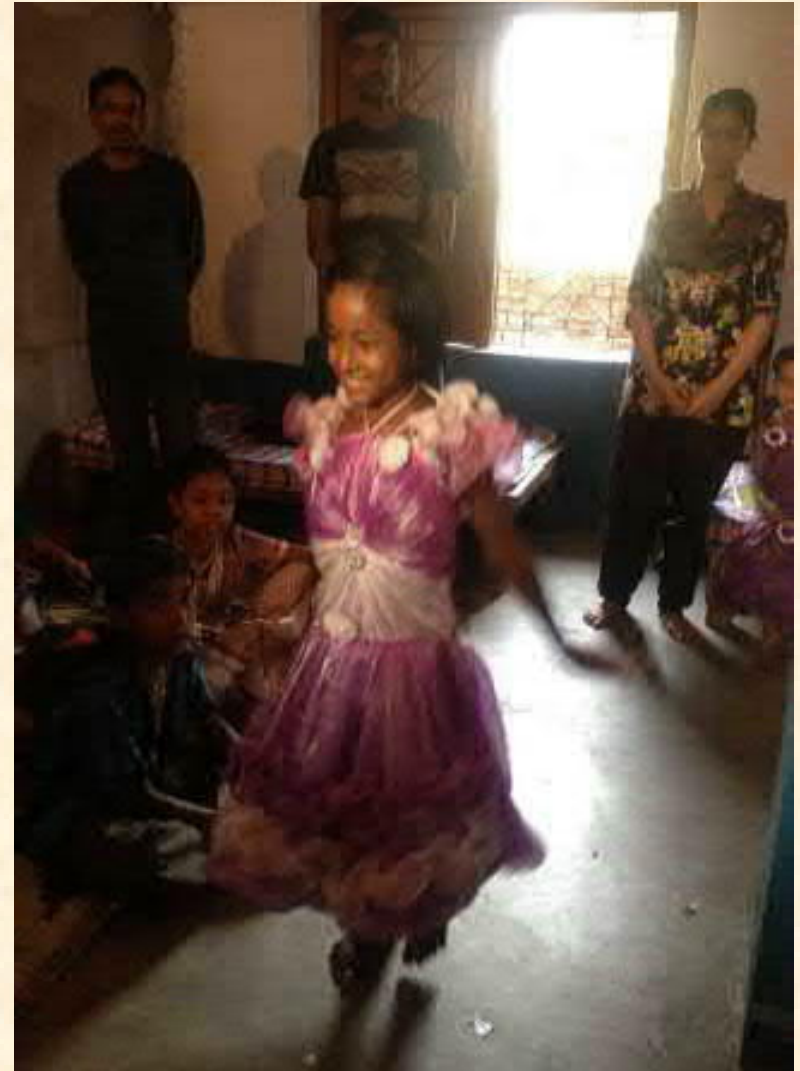
Event Snapshots – Atlanta Marathon



Team Asha has long been the backbone of Asha fundraisers for many years now. In 2013, Team Asha trained through a grueling 16 week training regimen to participate in the Thanksgiving Day Atlanta Marathon. Through their sweat and hard work, the runners raised a whopping \$3324 to benefit Asha Atlanta projects. Go Team Asha!!

Site Visit to Nishtha Night Shelter – Dec 13

In December 2013, Asha Atlanta Chapter Coordinator Anu visited the night shelter run by Nishtha. She met with the children living in the shelter and the various staff who help operate the shelter and work with the kids. The children looked well fed and nourished and were all enrolled in the local school.



Anu also visited the brothels where the mothers live and talked to them about their hopes and plans for their children living in the shelter. You can read more about her full site visit report at www.ashanet.org/atlanta/

Site Visit to Nishtha Jagaran – Dec 13

In December 2013, Anu visited the village of Damdama in West Bengal for a site visit to Nishtha Jagaran. In more than 250 villages in WB, Nishtha runs empowerment training camps for girls of various ages known as Kishori and Balika Vahinis to minimize school dropouts and child marriages.



Asha supports the empowerment training and tuition support to the girls of Damdama and Phingedhauri villages. Anu also met with the mothers of the girls to encourage them to allow their girls to pursue English and Computer training that will eventually help them get employed.

You can read more about Anu's site visit report at www.ashanet.org/atlanta

Site Visit to Trinita and Cross Stitch – Dec 13

In December 2013, Asha Atlanta Chapter Coordinator Anu visited the project of Trinita and Trinita-Cross Stitch in Kolkata, WB.

Asha provides after school coaching support and school supplies to minimize dropout rates.



The second batch of girl students undergoing computer training under the Cross Stitch program at Trinita.



Teacher Speaks

To Asha Atlanta :

This is Mrs. Munmun Das Halder, teacher of Maju R.N.Basu Girls' High School. I hope you remember our institution, the one you have been so good as to help through your NGO. I write this note once more to heartily thank you on behalf of all the children, teaching and non-teaching staff of our school.

The last sum you arranged has been properly put to use. The engineer Mr. Tarapada Bhattacharya came and on our explaining to him the need for a reservoir and constant water supply, he immediately made a plan and facilitated us. Thanks to you and Kaustuvda, the girls now have running water all the time. We teachers, serving here in the rural-most areas of West Bengal, know what an ordeal it is to be asking for help from the surrounding people and being able to get it. It is hopeful to see some people realize the need and make a move towards it. If you are ever here in West Bengal, we would be happy to have you visit our institution, so that you can witness the help you have done.

Once again, I thank you and your organization for helping us.

- A teacher

Atlanta Chapter sent \$7K in the past to R N Basu Girls School. The funds were used to build infrastructure for a girls school. More info: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=897>

2014 GOALS

The two primary goals of Asha are to *educate* and *empower* underprivileged children.

Since its inception, Asha Atlanta has been supporting a broad range of education related projects each of which brings its own challenges such as

- Improving the quality of education in primary schools
- Preventing child labor and minimizing dropout rates in high schools
- Delaying child marriage among girls after puberty
- Empowering girls to become independent

Through numerous site visits to the NGOs by Asha volunteers and project stewards and interacting with the project partners, talking to the children and their families, it has become clear that extending opportunities that provide employment after high school is critical to real empowerment.

Hence, in 2014, in addition to education related projects, we have undertaken and initiated vocational training specifically through English and Computer Training in three of our projects as a fundamental first step towards achieving this goal.

The Team

Chapter Coordinator: Anuradha Bulusu

Project Coordinator : Padmanava Sen

Treasurer: Gayathri Shivkumar

Webmaster : Ranjitha

Team Asha Coordinators: Nandan Kidambi and Lakshmi Narayana Kollepara

Members : Abhyuday Mandal, Prachi Singh, Indra Dattagupta, Vijay Gopalakrishnan, Manjusha Sharma, Payel Paul, Kajal Jain, Pritesh Patel.

Webpage: www.ashanet.org/atlanta

Contact Us: atlanta@ashanet.org