

**The Naz Foundation (India) Trust**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**April 2012 – March 2013**



**THE NAZ FOUNDATION (I) TRUST**

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**NAZ CARE HOME**

Over the past twelve years, the Naz Care Home has grown from a place for one child to live to a warm and happy home for 30 children living with HIV. With love, dedication and generous support from donors and volunteers, we are able to provide quality medical care, counselling, and educational opportunities for our children. We ensure that they are exposed to a wide range of cultural and recreational activities that allow them both to enjoy a rich and exciting childhood and to mature and grow into independent adults.

This past year, we have watched our children grow and learn, welcomed countless visitors and volunteers into our home, and mourned the loss of one of our children. All of us at the Naz Care Home continue to be a strong, united family that strives to provide the best for our children.

**Updates on the Children**

In April, we were pleased to welcome **Seema**, who was reunited with her family in 2010, back into our home. Due to lack of resources as well as discrimination in her family, it was clear that she would be happiest here at the Naz Care Home, and she has proven herself to be helpful, focused and independent. She was readmitted to school and is pursuing her studies.

**Deepali**, age 6, passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2012, due to pneumonia, and all of us at the Care Home were deeply saddened by this loss. Deepali came to us in poor condition at the end of 2008, but she warmed up our home with her beautiful smile.

Over the course of the year, all the children were presented to the Child Welfare Committee and were given extension for long term stay at the Naz Care Home.

**Academics**

All of the children in the Naz Care Home go to mainstream government and public schools and they performed well in the academic year 2011-2012. Akhil passed his 10<sup>th</sup> class board exams with 72% and wanted to pursue commerce. He was admitted in the stream of his choice at G.B. Pant School. Prashant, Chetan and Alphonsa all received excellent reviews from their teachers. Babli and Gudiya were admitted to government school, Khushi prepared to begin nursery, and Supriya prepared to start class three. Seema was admitted to 4<sup>th</sup> class at MCD School, and Meena was able to attend MCD School with a special educator.

Over the summer, the kids enjoyed their free time and activities around the house but also continued to study with tutors. They started off the year with new books and uniforms, and all of the children did well on their exams in September. Roza was transferred to MCD School, and Tushar and Meena had assessments done at Shaurya Center, which provides rehabilitation and pre-vocational programmes for special children.

Saurabh Singh, who turned 18 and finished his tenth grade, started working with Umi Image and improving his computer skills. He hopes to continue his education through distance learning. All of the children were focused on their exams in March, and we look forward to hearing their results.

### **Health**

Aside from the colds, coughs, fevers and infections that often accompany changes in weather, most of our children have managed to remain healthy this year. Most of them are on ART and doing well, and one has moved to second line ART.

Three children were treated for TB during the year and are in the process of recovery. Nikita had apthous ulcer, Samadhan had herpes, Sonu had an appendix problem requiring surgery, while Sahil required surgery for TB.

The children had eye examinations this year to ensure those with vision problems could get glasses. Four of the children, Meena, Manpreet, Tushar and Saurav Semwal had bone age determination tests, which indicated that they were all approximately 16 years old. Some of the children experienced injuries while playing, including Saurav Sharma with a knee injury, Prathamesh with a scrape requiring stitches, and Nikita with a hand fracture. They have all recovered.

In June, the Delhi government announced an aid scheme for HIV/AIDS infected people from underprivileged families as well as orphans and abandoned children living with HIV. Delhi became the first state in the country to provide life-long financial assistance to PLHA with adults, registered with the nine ARV centres in the city, being offered Rs. 1,000 per month for anti-retroviral treatment. HIV positive orphans, destitute or abandoned CLHA were provided Rs. 2,050.

At a function held at the Maulana Azad Medical College, the Chief Minister Ms. Sheila Dikshit, distributed the cheques to the 17 children enrolled in the programme.

### **Volunteers**

The Naz Care Home is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated corps of volunteers, who come to the home regularly and engage the kids in fun, cultural, educational and recreational activities, which range from cooking to dancing to art to computer skills. This year, we greatly appreciated the work of volunteers from the following organisations: Barclays, Kids Powered Media, the American Embassy School, the GD Goenka School, the Delhi Network, the Inner Wheel Club, the Bookaroo Club, the American Jewish World Service, the Ibis Hotel, the Rotary Club, IGNOU and NIPCCD. We also enjoyed the enthusiasm and generosity of regular volunteers Kathrine, Sam, Melissa and Annabelle and Marie Fleming among others.

### **Visits**

The Naz Care Home has become a model for care of children living with HIV, and this year, we enjoyed visits from many individuals and organisations. Teams from the University of Delhi, NIHFW, Ruchika, the Mukti Foundation, the Aswini College of Nursing and the Youth Alliance all came to the Care Home on exposure visits. Representatives from the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, the International Hotels group, the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development and the Corporate Responsibility Programme at Accenture also visited Naz and engaged the children and staff.

In October, two officers from the Welfare Department made a surprise visit to our home and were extremely happy with our work. Mr. Patrick Shepard from Reuters was kind enough to make a short documentary film about the Care Home, which gave the children a great opportunity to discuss their lives and dreams.

The Swedish organisation Adoptionscentrum has been supporting our training programmes over the years and one of their development work partners, Radiohjalpen, wanted to do a short film on the care home. They visited our Home and did a short story on the lives of the children living here. This was later broadcast on their television channel.

### **Events and Outings**

This year, the children were thrilled to have several exciting events and outings each month. From engaging activities at home, to outings to places like Splash Water Park and the Kingdom of Dreams, to holiday celebrations, our staff and volunteers ensured that the children never had a boring moment.

At home, the kids enjoyed cooking classes with Delhi Network volunteers throughout the year, which have introduced them to foods from around the world and allowed them to apply maths and reading skills in a practical situation. Several of the kids began dancing classes with a dancer, and many of them enjoyed visiting the park, making art, and watching films with other volunteers.

Volunteers from Barclays also conducted several sessions on etiquette, team building and computer skills. The children also had a lot of fun preparing a birthday party for Executive Director Anjali Gopalan in September.

Throughout the year, all of the children had the opportunity to go on exciting adventures outside of the Care Home. Some of the children participated in the PLANET 19 project at the Ibis Hotel in April.

The thirteen older children took a wonderful trip to Mumbai, where they were hosted on INS Beas, saw the naval ship and submarine, and visited Chowpatty, Elephanta Caves, Taraporewala Aquarium, Haji Ali, Nehru Planetarium, Gateway of India and Juhu beach. In January 2013, the kids had an exciting visit by Kittu, who was adopted by Ylva from Sweden in 2010, and they all enjoyed a trip to World of Wonder together. The Naz staff visited the new Naz farm in February and look forward to bringing the children when it is completed.

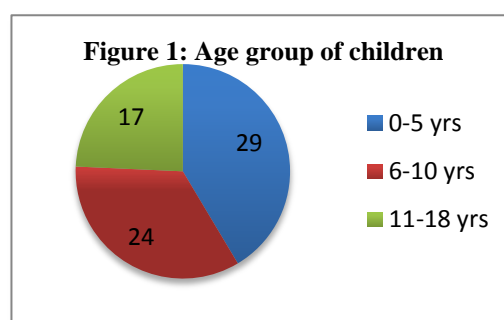
The children were able to celebrate many different holidays at the Naz Care Home, and special visits from volunteers made these holidays exciting for all. During Diwali, the Inner Wheel Club came to give clothes to the children, and they took a trip to Civil Lines for Durga Puja. In December, many volunteers organised special Christmas activities for the kids, and they were also invited to a wonderful celebration at Ibis hotel. The children and staff welcomed the end of winter during Lohri in January, and they celebrated International Women's Day with the Rotary Club in March. Finally, the end of March was full of joyous Holi celebrations, including visits from several organisations.

## MAINSTREAMING AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

The Lakshmi and Usha Mittal Foundation and the Naz Foundation (India) Trust project *Mainstreaming and Social Rehabilitation of Children Living with HIV/AIDS* (CLHA) was initiated in August 2011 to assist with the mainstreaming and social rehabilitation of CLHA. Currently, the programme is run by a three-member team, along with the Programs Manager.

During the year April 2012 to March 2013, we continued to make outreach visits to seven hospitals, visit families at home, where we provided counselling, rations, and medical and educational support as needed, and organised skill building sessions and other informational events.

At the time of this report, we have 70 children in the programme, and a breakdown of their ages can be seen in **Figure 1**. Currently, 38 of these children are enrolled in school; those who are not are too young to enrol, suffer from disabilities preventing them from enrolling, or have lost interest in attending school.



### HOSPITAL OUTREACH

This year, we continued to conduct outreach at the following seven hospitals: Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Kalawati Hospital, Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Rajan Babu TB Hospital. Data about the activities conducted at these sites can be seen in the table below.

	Nov 2012 to Mar 2013*	Apr 2012 to Mar 2013	Programme Lifetime (Aug 11 to Mar 2013)
Total number of visits	-	187	294
Number of families met	605	-	-
Children reached	420	-	-
Counselling at hospital	204	-	-

\*We began reporting data for some new variables in Nov 2012, so data for those variables is not available for the year or programme lifetime.

### HOME VISITS

At any point during the year, we have been managing approximately 70 children through home visits. However, we have begun to gradually wean long-time participants off the programme after seeing great improvement, which allows us to take on newly diagnosed cases.

Due to financial restraints, we have gradually reduced the number of home visits, but we continue to provide valuable services and reach a large audience through our visits and other activities. The

following table contains data about the services provided during these home visits.

	<b>Nov 2012 to Mar 2013*</b>	<b>Apr 2012 to Mar 2013</b>	<b>Programme Lifetime (Aug 11 to Mar 2013)</b>
Total number of visits	-	230	349
Number of people reached	299	-	1035
Number of new children	-	52	90
Number of children removed	-	20	20
Counselling during home visit	126	-	-
Families receiving ration support	-	295	425
Medical and educational support	16	-	-
Number of children hospitalised	-	12	23
Unforeseen circumstances	-	-	25

\*We began reporting data for some new variables in Nov 2012, so data for those variables is not available for the year or programme lifetime.

### **SKILL BUILDING SESSIONS**

During the months of April, May, June, July, November and February, skill building sessions were held for children and their caregivers. 139 caregivers attended these sessions in this period, and we have provided training for 263 caregivers total since August 2011. This year, the topics of the Skill Building Sessions ranged from rights and abuses, healthy habits to HIV basics and condom use, and included fun activities for the children such as arts and crafts, story time and painting.

### **EVENTS**

We held many exciting events this year to spread awareness to the community and advance training and communication for our staff. In April, we visited the LRS TB hospital to organise fun activity for the children admitted there. The Programs Manager, Anuradha Mukherjee, and Coordinator, Geeta Kumari, made presentations at the Usha Mittal Institute of Technology and Arcelor Mittal Development Solutions in Mumbai. We also made a presentation about the programme in the Delhi office.

In May, we continued visiting the children at the LRS TB hospital, and we distributed school bags and supplies to the children at the Skill Building Session. We held a two-day workshop for programme staff in August, focusing on the communication and team-building skills needed to build and maintain relationships with CLHA and their families. On International Volunteer Day in December, four staff members from Arcelor Mittal visited the children living in the Naz Care Home.

## **REDUCING STIGMA AND BUILDING CAPACITY IN ORPHANAGES TO HOUSE ORPHANS LIVING WITH HIV**

The Naz Foundation (India) Trust, initiated the training programme *Reducing Stigma and Building Capacity in Orphanages to House Orphans Living with HIV* in January 2010 with support from Adoptionscentrum (Sweden).

During these three years, the team achieved the goals of the project and brought about change to reduce stigma and discrimination towards the orphan children living with HIV/AIDS.

Throughout the project period, we worked with organisations like Satyakam, Drone Foundation, Karam marg, Tara Children's Home, Haryana Rajya Bal Griha, Aashray home and Rays to build their capacity to house CLHA and advocate for their rights.

**Capacity Building Workshop** - 2012 was the last year of this project period. In this year we worked intensively with Rays and Aashray in Jaipur. Both the organisations were facing incidents of discrimination for HIV positive status of the children. Following our workshops, the caregivers are now well versed with their rights. We dealt with many gaps in terms of information and focussed on ARV adherence which was a serious concern among the caregivers and children.

We worked with Haryana Rajya Bal Griha, the state run home for boys. It was the first time for them to house CLHA. There were many misconception and fear to care for CLHA. After series of workshop staff and caregivers were confident to provide care without any inhibitions.

Besides taking new organisations, we conducted follow up sessions with organisations like Tara, Satyakam. This year the children of these homes were introduced to child rights as we realised that if children are well versed with their rights they can address abuse and raise voice to protect themselves. After the training workshop, some of the participants shared that sessions by Naz Foundation not only clarified their misconception around HIV but also child rights and hands on care would help them in providing best possible care for CLHA.

**Advocacy** is the other vital component of the project. The major achievement of this year was working with the *Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Haryana*, in all the 21 districts of the state.

In 2012, there were many reports of child abuse within child care institutions, especially in the state of Haryana. The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights took up the matter and three orphanages were closed down. In this process children were the main sufferers as they were shifted from one to another. Through our networking we realised that most of the government and non government orphanages were not familiar with the issues of children living with HIV.

We approached ICPS, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which plays an important role in the context of orphaned and vulnerable children. We covered all the 21 districts of Haryana including Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Rohtak, Sonapat, Jind, Gurgaon, Karnal, Narnaul, Fatehabad as part of our advocacy workshop with 670 participants from government sector, child care institutes, orphanages and women's homes. We discussed on issues like stigma and discrimination towards the children living with HIV/AIDS, child rights. Apart from this, there was discussion on why mainstream orphanages refuse to keep positive children in their institution.



### ***Child Welfare Committee, Uttar Pradesh***

The Naz Foundation in collaboration with Meerut based Satyakam Manav Seva Samiti organised an interactive session ***Advocating for +ive Change*** with Child Welfare Committee members and NGOs in December 2012. The districts in the western part of Uttar Pradesh – Ghaziabad, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Bijnor and Baghpat were covered with the aim of sensitising them to the aspect of HIV and their willingness to extend care and support to children living with HIV.

An important outcome of the half day workshop was when Mr. RP Gupta from an organisation which works with children with special needs, offered to take care of a child from Lucknow who was visually impaired and positive.

It was a platform where NGO and CWC members shared their concern about housing HIV positive children. By the end of the workshop, the following recommendations came up:

- Lower the age of consent for HIV testing to 14 or 15 years from 18 years.
- Provide sex education to children.
- Change the mindset of parents.
- Train staff in child care institutions to take care of positive children
- Initiate discussion on HIV with children and in schools.

**Nirmal Dham** was another successful intervention this year as they had concern about housing a positive girl child in their home after knowing her status. The child along with her two siblings had been staying in the home for a year. We visited them and had a day long meeting with the management and caregivers. After discussing their fear and concerns around HIV they were willing to keep the child with them. The trained (by Naz) ICPS officers also helped us to restore the child in same home.

**Care Worker Guidance Meeting, Amsterdam** - In May 2012, a series of work group meetings took place in Amsterdam organised by the Global Network of People Living with HIV and the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS. Ms. Anjali Gopalan attended these meetings whose main purpose was to create an international guidance document for care workers working with children and families with HIV/AIDS. These meetings are part of the process that will culminate in the production of an international document in November 2012 providing essential guidelines to caregivers of all countries, thereby providing resource for all children with HIV/AIDS.

National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Aanchal Care Home in Jaipur were some of the other institutions where we intervened.

**Important visits** - Ms Eva Maria visited the project, the purpose of the visit was to interact with the team on the upcoming proposal. Forum Syd members visited the organisation to know about its work and achievement through the project.



**Capacity building of staff** - To address the requirement of the partner organisations, it is important for us to keep updating ourselves. In this context Ms. Meeta Sen, Coordinator of the programme, attended a workshop on child participation in child safeguarding. The Naz staff got an opportunity to build their own skill around addressing /identifying and working with children who are victim of stigma and discrimination by Khoj Foundation. Haq conducted series of sessions on child rights. The Project Officer attended a workshop on counselling skills by Tarshi.

From January 2013, we initiated the new project “Adopting a Rights-based Approach to Care for Children Living with HIV”. This time we are focussing on the eastern part of India and chose to initiate work in Odisha. Though Odisha is a low prevalence state, the number of people living with HIV is increasing in some of the districts like Ganjam, Angul. This in turn is leading to the increase in the number of CLHA.

In the initial phase of the project, we identified few child care institutions (CCI) and planned our needs assessment visit to these CCI to recognise the training needs for these institutions.

## **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING TO ENHANCE CARE AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN INFECTED AND AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS**

The Naz Foundation (India) Trust and the American India Foundation (AIF) have been working on the project *Institutional Capacity Building to Enhance Care and Support for Children Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS* since October 2010. The activities held during the period April 2012 to March 2013 are narrated below.

### **Manual for Capacity Building of Care Homes**

Positive Caregiving for Children living with HIV - the training manual was ready. This was one of the major activities in the project and the Naz team along with consultants worked for getting this comprehensive tool ready before the first training for the care home staff in Maharashtra. The manual comprises of four modules

1. Basics of HIV
2. Sex and Sexuality
3. Child Care
4. Special issues

It has come out well with very good design, effective illustrations and user friendly format. The manual is well appreciated by those who have seen it.

### **Launching of training manual *Positive Caregiving for Children Living with HIV***

Naz Foundation in collaboration with the American India Foundation (AIF) launched the training manual *Positive Care giving for Children Living with HIV* on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Pune. AIF India Board of Trustees member, Ms. Malavika Tiwari, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The actress and businesswoman reiterated the need to provide quality care for Children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLHA) and ensure their basic rights are fulfilled.

She lauded the initiative to bring together organisations and institutions working with children in Maharashtra to discuss issues related to CLHA and share experiences on a common platform to ensure equal opportunities and a stigma-free childhood.

### **Training of Care Homes in Maharashtra**

A four day capacity building programme was conducted at Pune from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Nineteen participants, including doctors, counsellors, nurses and people from admin and managerial levels, from 10 care homes actively participated in the training. We had a one day exposure programme to Snehalaya, Ahmednagar. It was an enriching experience for all.

We had a good team of resource people like Dr Vinay Kulkarni, Dr Sanjeevani Kulkarni and Dr Ritu from Prayas, Pune; Dr Girish Kulkarni of Snehalaya Care Home, Ahmednagar; Sr Shanti of St Catherine's Care Home, Mumbai; and Mr Pankaj Bedi and Mr Anand from CFAR, Maharashtra. The Naz team consisted of Ms Anuradha Mukherjee, Ms Meeta Sen, Ms Geeta Kumari and James Veliath. Charu Johri of AIF was there with us throughout the programme.

### **Needs Assessment visit to AP**

As part of the Institutional Capacity Building to Enhance Care and Support for Children Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS, needs assessment visit was conducted by the Project Coordinator along with Consultant, Ms. Marina Romeo, to 11 care homes in Andhra Pradesh, spread over five districts in the Telangana region. The main objective of this activity was to conduct baseline assessment of some of the existing organisations working to provide care and support and building their capacities. This assessment would enable us in selecting the partner organisations that could be provided capacity building to provide quality care and support to children infected and affected by HIV and those vulnerable to it. The visits were made from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

The institutions visited were:

1. Freedom Foundation - Hyderabad
2. Sivananda Rehabilitation Home - Hyderabad
3. Rakshana Deepam - Medak
4. DESIRE Society - Himayat Nagar
5. Asha Jyothi Arnold Children's Home - Medak
6. Prashantha Bhavan – Karimnagar
7. Kripa Bhawan - Karimnagar
8. Karunalayam - Warangal
9. Divine Mercy Home - Warangal
10. Asuntha Asha Nilayam - Warangal
11. Mahima Ministry – Renga Reddy (An orphanage but not for CLHA)

We felt that all of the care homes require training and every institution we visited urged us to conduct it at the earliest. The training should focus on areas like psycho social support and issues related to adolescence, sex and sexuality, career counselling, legal aspects of running an orphanage.

### **Preparation for the 1st training at Andhra Pradesh**

Preparation is on for the first training for the care homes in Andhra Pradesh. We are collaborating with Freedom Foundation for organising the training. We have identified some of the local resource persons for this training.

### **Meeting with funding partner**

The Project team met the AIF team periodically to apprise on the development of the project, sharing ideas and modifying the activities to maximise the impact. The team met on nine occasions. On 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2012, Dr. Hemanth Paul, the new Country Director of AIF and Charu Johri came to Naz and had a meeting with the Executive Director and Project staff.