



LEARNING TO FLY

The E-newsletter of Butterflies Organization

Meeting with NIOS Partners

On 5th March 2007, Butterflies organized a meeting with 5 NGOs- CASP Plan, Prabhatara, Vidya, Project Concern India and Sahitya School who with Butterflies are part of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Butterflies is accredited to the NIOS programme and the five NGOs are the linked partner organizations accessing NIOS for their children through Butterflies. The meeting was organized with the objective to formalize and systematize the relationship of Butterflies with the NIOS partner NGOs and to understand the status of NIOS in each organization. Further, it aimed to clarify roles and responsibilities of Butterflies and the partner NGOs in the context of NIOS and also to understand issues related to NIOS for each of the partner NGO and identify areas of support for them to develop timelines for implementing NIOS programme for the current year with clearly chalked out roles and responsibilities.

Meals on Wheels

With the objective to increase education enrolment and attendance as well as address the problem of malnutrition amongst street and working, Butterflies introduced Meals on Wheels project in February. Nutritious wholesome meal is provided to children at a subsidized rate of two rupees fifty paise out of which one rupee goes into the child's account in the Children's Development Bank. At present 150 children are part of this project. Despite having numerous discussions with traffic police officials that the van carrying the meals to various contact points is a mid day meal scheme for children who participate in our education programme and not a commercial activity; the traffic police still stop our van, ask numerous questions and sometimes challan (levy a fine) us!! It sounds ridiculous but it is true. The federal and state government in all their public documents state their commitment to elementary education and here is a classic example of how one government department can frustrate initiatives that would help the State Government to keep its promise of taking education to the unreached children. We just hope that in the coming days the traffic policemen will understand that our van 'meals on wheels' are meals meant for children studying in our primary and elementary education centers. The driver of course has a bunch of documents in the van to show the policeman our credentials as an NGO running education classes for street and working children.

Strengthening Education

In order to strengthen the education programme and to track the overall progress of children, Butterflies has developed in house curriculum as well as monitoring and evaluation system. Several meetings were held with the families/ community and the employers of children to sensitize them towards children's issues and to seek their support in sending the children regularly to the learning centres. Intensive enrollment drives were held in the month of February and March 2007 at all our contact points. This resulted in a tremendous increase in the number of children accessing education as by the end of March, 741 children were part of Butterflies Education programme

"A butterfly is one of the nature's most beautiful creatures and so is a child. The butterfly flits from flower to flower for its sustenance. Our children move constantly for their livelihood. Butterflies have very short lives; street children have very brief childhoods"...Rita Panicker, Director

Reaching Out

In order to reach out to more street and working children in Delhi, Butterflies in January and February initiated two new contact points, one in Nehru Place and the other in Sadar Bazaar area respectively. At Nehru Place we are in contact with around 75 children and in Sadar Bazaar the outreach is 50.

Indian Social Institute and Delhi Child Rights Club Initiative for Child Protection

In a strategy meeting organized by Indian Social Institute and Butterflies on 28th March 2007 an initiative was formalized for protection of children in the National Capital Region (NCR). The collective initiative would involve member organizations of the Delhi Child Rights Club and CHILDLINE. In order to make child protection effective in Delhi, the group would undertake effective advocacy, research and awareness activities on the issue of child protection in the NCR.

Launch of Delhi Children's Times

On 29th March 2007, 24 Children representing 12 Delhi Child Rights Club member organizations launched Delhi Children's Times or the D.C.T as called by children. D.C.T is children's own newspaper, which raises their issues on areas of their concern. In February, reporters and editors of Delhi Children's Times met in Butterflies office so as to finalize the publication. The first issue of Delhi Children's Times is focused on child labour and it carried a number of articles and news coverage written by children on this issue.



Going Live: Butterflies Broadcasting Children

Since December, children part of Butterflies Broadcasting Children (BBC) has been regular in broadcasting Radio Programmes on Radio Jamia 90.4 FM and from April 2007, BBC children will perform live on Radio Jamia 90.4 FM. The activities BBC was covered by the National Television Doordarshan, and shall be featured in a unique Programme called Salaam Bachpan (Salute Childhood).

Children's Development Bank Membership Drive

The The Childrens Development Bank (CDB) members in New Delhi carried out a membership drive in the months of January and February. The drive was carried out in the bus stations, railway stations and market places to reach out to street and working children who are unaware of CDB. The team shared information on CDB with the help of audio programmes developed by children from the Alternate Media group. The team also reached out to employers and the community people and sought their support in encouraging children to save money.

CDB is the first bank started for street and working children by Butterflies, India and is the key lead agency anchoring the project in India and other South Asian Countries.

The partner agencies in the South Asia are Aparajeyo-Bangladesh in Bangladesh, Aschiana in Afghanistan, Child Welfare Scheme in Pokhara, Nepal, Youth Society Nepal in Chitwan, Nepal and Kantha Shakti in Sri Lanka. The Partner agencies in India are Leh Nutrition Project in Leh – Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir), Jeeva Jyothi in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Mayurbhanj Joint Citizen Center in Kolkata (West Bengal) and Mahila Development Center in Muzaffarpur (Bihar).

National Children's Times

The media team successfully brought out the 7th Issue of National Children's Times which focuses on "Menaces of HIV AIDS & Drugs". The newspaper has been distributed to different schools and colleges as well as to local and national voluntary organizations.

Initiation of Breakfast Project

Ms. Parul Sharma, Director- Care House Foundation Sweden and her friend Andrea visited Butterflies and also the Fatehpuri night shelter. After the visit and discussions Ms. Parul contributed money for a set of 10 lockers for the children and made a commitment to support the Breakfast Project in all the 3 night shelters run by Butterflies. She is presently supporting the cost of providing a glass of milk for 150 children.

Study Tour from Tajikistan

The Alliance Building team facilitated a study tour of 9 member delegation of NGO and Government representatives from Tajikistan, which also included a Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Tajikistan as well as representatives from Save the Children Tajikistan and key functionaries from 3 grassroots' NGO's i.e. League of Women lawyers, Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens and Resource Consultative Centre on Labour. The study tour was jointly organized by Save the Children, Central Asia and Butterflies from 23rd to 30th March 2007 with the objective to enable sharing of experience and increase awareness of the best practices and approaches of providing non institutional support to street and working children. There is a possibility of Butterflies signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Save the Children, Tajikistan to give them technical advice in initiating a "Street Children Programme" in Tajikistan.

Interaction with Employees of Google

To explore different channels in bringing about a difference in the lives of street and working children, Butterflies had an interactive session with employees of Google on the status of street and working children in Delhi and also how corporate houses can partner with NGOs so as to bring about a meaningful change at the grassroots level. The meeting surely broke the corporate image of being commercial, profitable enterprise and added the component of sensitivity towards society and a zeal for bringing about a change. The meeting ended with Google employees gifting clothes to the children in our resilience centre.

Resilience Centre

Butterflies Childline received 3914 calls during the last 3 months with 47 calls for Missing Children, 22 calls for rescue, 9 calls for Shelter, 4 calls for medical assistance, 24 calls for restoration & repatriation, 326 calls related to information and referral while 28 calls were for emotional support and guidance. The actual interventions done during the last quarter was 35 for Missing Children, 12 for Medical assistance, 32 for Restoration, 34 for Emotional support & Guidance, 44 for Shelter and 10 for Rescue. Butterflies has conducted 6 trainings for the police personnel of South Delhi in the last quarter. Around 30 police personnel participated in each session, at the HRD wing of South District.



You Love Me

You Love Me Not



A storybook for children against child sexual abuse has been published by Butterflies Advocacy and Research Centre in collaboration with Save the Children, Sweden, Kathmandu office. The stories reflect different situations in which children are abused and are true cases that Butterflies has handled over the years. The storybook is an excellent buy for both children and adults as it gives information on what to do if one is in a similar situation as well educate adults how they can support children. The storybook can be collected from Butterflies office at Green Park at a nominal price of Rs. 50.

Eye Check up Camp



On 27th March, Dr. Shroff's Charitable Eye Hospital along with Butterflies Health team organized an eye check up camp in Fatehpuri Night Shelter. A total of 33 children from all the contact points, who were detected, having some kind of visual error, participated in the camp. Out of these 33 children 13 children were identified to have serious problem and were called up for detailed check up to Dr. Shroff's Eye Hospital. Most of these children suffered from Vitamin A deficiency, watering of eyes etc and were given medicines.



Walk Through the Historical Ridge in Delhi

On 3rd February, 17 street children, 2 teachers, 2 child rights facilitators from Butterflies along with 8 students and 2 lecturers of Central Institute of Education, Delhi University commenced on a five-kilometer walk through the historical ridge. The walk proved to be an excellent learning opportunity and at the same time also gave children a healthy break from their daily hardships. It meandered through the Ashoka pillar (3rd century B.C.), Peer Ghaib and Chauburza Mausoleum constructed during the time of Ferozshah Tughlaq (14th century A.D.), Mutiny Memorial, Flagstaff Tower (19th century A.D.) and the Khooni Jheel tucked in the ridge. It sure was a kaleidoscopic view of ancient and Mughal history in the northern - most stretches of the ancient Aravalli Hills. The significance of this peep into the heritage was to explore our sense of identity and the need to conserve and preserve the living history.

Butterflies Valentines Day Celebrations, with a difference

As part of our Fund raising and awareness generation initiative, Butterflies had put up 10 stalls in different parts of the city to make people aware about child rights and child protection issues. In these stalls, along with Butterflies publications, Butterflies products like Gerry's tulips, Terracotta crafts etc. were also put on sale. This gave Butterflies an excellent opportunity to sensitize a larger audience on the issue of street and working children, showcase its activities as well as generate funds for its programmes with street and working children. A number of corporate houses and Airline offices like HSBC, Sapient, Air France and KLM etc. gave in their full support and co-operation.

In house Lecture Series:



Butterflies Advocacy and Research Centre conducted in house lectures with the objective to update knowledge and information on various socio- economic and political issues by experts in the field. The lectures were organized on the following themes:

- Juvenile Justice Act
- Legal procedures in cases of offences against children

New Releases:

- Poverty and Children in Orissa: Strengthening Government accountability : A study on the poverty situation of Orissa
- My Name is Today issue on 'Children in Northeast State'

Capacity Building Intervention for Butterflies Community Kitchen

In February, Kornelieke Buchel and Victor Vreeken from Sharepeople, Netherlands visited Butterflies as volunteers and undertook capacity building programme with the aim to expand the business of Butterflies Community Kitchen and evolve it into a full-fledged professional enterprise. Four weeks of discussions, analysis, brainstorming, questions and answers resulted in a report that included business plans and different approaches for expanding the kitchen and developing it into a professional enterprise.

Sensitization programme at Central Institute of Education.

With the objective to sensitize young people on the issue of street and working children as well as showcase programmes of Butterflies, an awareness generation programme was organized on 17th February by Central Institute of Education, Delhi University. Attended by 25 students and 7 faculty members, it was surely a touching moment for all the participants who got familiar with issues affecting street and working children and at the same time were also looking for avenues to bring about a meaningful change at the grassroots level. The meeting ended with lunch provided by the adolescent boys of Butterflies Community Kitchen.



Intervention in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Butterflies organized half day consultation on child rights and child protection with tribal council members on 31st March 2007. Twenty-two members including Captains and Vice-Captains of seven project villages participated in the consultation. 20 field staff of South Andaman team and 18 field staff of Little Andaman attended a TOT workshop on Life Skill Education in the last quarter.

Butterflies in association with Directorate of Health services, A&N organized Health Camps in Eleven villages of South Andaman. 550 children and 400 adults benefited by attending lectures on communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, health and hygiene by the medical professionals.

Butterflies in collaboration with Bishop John Richardson Hospital, Car Nicobar organized Dental Check-Up camp for two days (31st January and 3rd February 2007) in four schools of Car Nicobar. Around 450 children had check-ups and received tips on protection from dental caries and dental plaque.



Bouquets

As always our thanks to Misereor of Germany for continuing to support our programmes

and

Railway Children UK, ICCO, American Pacific Enterprises, Save the children UK, Social Initiative Sweden, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Child Hope UK, Care House Foundation Sweden, Atlantic Philantropies UK, Shinnyo-en Japan, Ohrlings Pricewaterhouse Coopers, HSBC and Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI for supporting our programmes.

Our thanks go to the following people whose unfailing support and goodwill have encouraged our successes and kept us going through the tough times.

H&M International for providing us with computer server and also helping us raise funds by allowing us to sell their donated clothes and accessories.

Mr & Mrs. Sarah O'Kane, UK, who has been contributing generously to Butterflies

Ms. Sara Clegg and her grandson Michael, UK, who visit Butterflies each year and bring with them items and money donated by many friends and supporters.

Ms. Malvi from New Delhi for providing us with food material for our children in Resilience Centre

Mr. David Gallaghen, USA

Ms. Juhi Jha, UK

Mr. Machiko Kaida, JICRC, Cambodia for the Resilience centre

Mr Mukul Mahajan, Jalandhar for the Alternate Education programme.

Youth Reach, New Delhi for supporting the treatment of two children from the Resilience Centre suffering from Tuberculosis and Cancer

Mr. Harish Manocha, Columbus Footwear, New Delhi for donating sports shoes to the street children associated with us.

Mr. Jayant Takkar, Rocksea Paper Products, New Delhi for designing and producing plastic bags for Gerry's Tulips.

M/s. Sapient Corporation Ltd. Gurgaon, for supporting our Street Children Programme.



Our Heartfelt Thanks to

Dr. S B Ray, Mr. Sungharsh Sood, New Delhi, Mr. Pankaj Gupta, New Delhi, Mr. Geoff Dunlop, UK, St. Francis Gilled, Mr. Peter Judy, Mr. Samir Sugathan, California, Ms. Sara Lisa and Ms. Marzia, Italy, Ms. Pezutto Elena, Italy, Ms. Repole Vita, Italy, Ms Milanese Andrea , Ms. Eisa and Mr Davide, Italy, Ms Cynthia James, UK, Ms. Joho Roren, Japan, Ms. Charlotte, New Delhi , Ms. Miharu Satto, Japan, Ms Danilia Barsoum, Mumbai, Mr. Joseph Silverstein, USA, Ms D Mardohai, Ms Mandira Rana, USA, Ms. Marta Pinto, Switzerland, Ms. Unni Mjeloe Birkeland, Norway, Ms. Inger Kristine Vasstveet, Norway, Mr. and Mrs. Ravat, UK, Mark Macdonald, Australia, Mr. Panesar, Germany, Ms. Prachi Mehta, USA, Ms. HanneEibe Anderson, Norway, Mr. Mareas Armstrong, UK, His Excellency Hans Jost Beckas, Germany, Mr. Prem Lath, New Delhi, Students of College of Social Work, Mussoorie, Students of School of Social Work, Rajgiri, Kalamassery, Ms. Anu Dixit, New Delhi, Mr. Pramod Marar, New Delhi, Mr. PD Francis, New Delhi, Ms. Shweta Chawla, New Delhi, Mr. Anjum Nath, New Delhi, Ms Sophy, New Delhi , Mr. Peter Mark, New Delhi, Medical Students of Madurai Medical College, Mr. Andrew Jellin, New Delhi, Ms. Tandra Mukherjee, Chennai, Ms. Loyola Tum, Kerala , Ms. Ettore, Ms. Elena , Ms Sara, Ms. Marisa , Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi , Ms. Kusum Bhalla, Gurgaon, Mr. Benit Pinto, New Delhi, Mr. Tony Dryden, New Delhi, Dr. S. Swaminathan, New Delhi, Ms. Suruchi Rastogi, New Delhi, Ms Usha Chandra Shekhar, Coimbatore, Ms. Nilima Chawla, New Delhi Mr. Joel Taylor, Woodstock, Mussoorie and Mr. Joseph Silverstein from USA.

We would also like to thank **Music World Entertainment Ltd.**, Ansal Plaza, New Delhi, **Trent India Limited**, Mumbai, **Staff of Belmandela**, Okhla Industrial Phase III, New Delhi, **Hill Top Hotel**, Bangalore, **The Next Shop**, Gurgaon, **Café Turtle**, New Delhi, **Staff of Sunflag Iron and Steel Company**, Nagpur and staff of **K and Company**, New Delhi

Butterflies and the children thank you and all our friends and well-wishers

We invite your feedback, opinions and suggestions on any of the issues raised in this newsletter

Write to: Butterflies

U-4 Green Park Extension, New Delhi 110016
Telephone: 011-26163935/26191063 Website: www.butterflieschildrights.org
E-mail: butterflies@vsnl.com

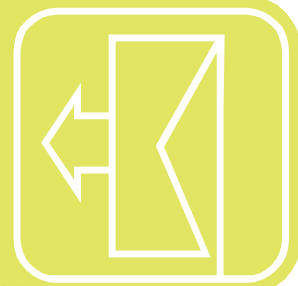
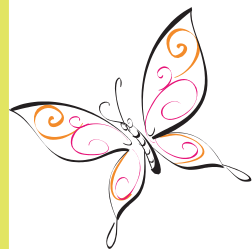
We request you to circulate this newsletter to others who you think would be interested in bringing about a difference to lives of the most marginalized children.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TO BE MADE TO BUTTERFLIES EITHER

a) By Demand Draft / Cheque payable in the name of "Butterflies"

b) By Bank transfer to "Butterflies"
A/c No. 9009 201 0100600 for Indian Currency
A/c No. 9009 201 0086034 (FCRA) for foreign currency
Swift Code SYNB IN BB 179

Beneficiary Bank: Branch of Syndicate Bank, Sector V, R.K.Puram, New Delhi



**No Amount Is Small, Your Contribution Can Take
the Children One Step Closer To Their Dreams**