**Karm Marg Quarterly Newsletter**

**October - December 2018**

This quarter of October-December was full of excitement for Karm Marg with a whole lot of new learning and we were kept very busy due to the festive season which arrived in the winters. We have much to share in this newsletter.

Story of the quarter
Babli received a scholarship from the Shivananda Yoga institute as a yoga instructor and teacher tanning. It is a three month residential training program which started in November and they selected her after seeing her dedication and potential in the field of Yoga. Babli is elated as her childhood dream has come true and it’s a very big achievement for her. She has been dreaming of becoming a Yoga practitioner since she was a teenager and has been very dedicated and passionate about working in this field. She’ll soon be a fully trained Instructor and teacher.

Volunteers
Our volunteers have always been a very special part of our family and it has been our good fortune that every volunteer that visits Karm Marg falls in love with it instantly and takes the place to heart. Pablo from Germany joined us in October for a three month residential volunteering program who was one such volunteer that Karm Marg has benefited from recently. During his stay he taught spoken and written English to 35 Children and 4 of our staff members. He was very punctual and dedicated towards his tasks and we have clearly seen the improvement amongst our children. He is such a loving and caring person and became a favorite of all the kids and we will all dearly miss Pablo very much.

Arran & louice who came to Karm Marg in 2000 as volunteers and stayed for three months, visited us once again to meet the children of Karm Marg with their kids and parents. It was overwhelming in a good way to reconnect with them after such a long time. Both of them with their son performed a show about street performance arts which every kid enjoyed and some also participated in the show. We felt so blessed to see their affection towards the children of KM.

Supporter

To dance on the music of hit Bollywood songs is a thing most loved by the children of KM and they received a big gift and surprise in the form of an even bigger music system form our long term donor and supporter Albatross Travel DK along with a party on Christmas eve. Also every staff member received a travel bag, which was a thoughtful present as it is a very useful item for them. We’d like to thank Albatross and Mountain adventures for their continuous support and love towards KM.

An old friend and a long term supporter, Nelleke, from Capsicum shop, Amsterdam paid us a visit to celebrate the festival of Diwali with us. She donated a printer to KM which was much needed. It has solved many problems for us and is proving to be useful for both the kids and staff members. Thanks a lot Nelleke for the thoughtful contribution and we all love you so much.

Manish and Sapna threw a pre Diwali dance party at KM for the kids which included lots of delicious food. They are supporting KM under the CSR project of their company, Market Xcel. The children had a blast and danced till late in the evening and finished it off with the food that was served.

Highlight of the quarter

In October we participated in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon to generate funds and promote KM. This was our second time participating and collecting funds through an online portal. It went well and we were able to generate around 5 lakhs from it.

From 26th to 29th December, Karm Marg organized a Kabaad se Jugaad workshop (Waste management, recycling and zero waste lifestyle) along with two other organizations who are working closely with kids and youth on the issue of waste management and recycling. Eco Hut from Udaipur and Creativity Adda from Delhi joined us on this venture which was a residential workshop for 54 kids including 25 from Karm Marg that participated in the workshop. For the past 2 years we have organized Kabaad se Jugaad workshops to spread awareness amongst people, mainly the youth about waste management and to give them exposure about minimizing our needs and not producing tons of waste.

Tanushree, a writer and an assistant professor, organized a winter carnival for the children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. She took this initiative four years ago to spread some happiness amongst the kids and we invited children from other NGO’s so they could also be a part of this amazing carnival and have fun.

**Festivals**

This quarter was full of festivities as we celebrated Diwali, Dussehra, Christmas, New Year and some more regional festivals.

**Jugaad**

As winter arrived and the festival season started taking hold, we got busier in our production and marketing for our products.

We participated in many exhibitions to sell and promote our products as this is the time to engage and find new buyers and receive big orders that can sufficiently support our youth and our women group. Right now Jugaad is working with 16 adolescents as well 58 women for their financial sustainability.

Jugaad also collaborated with business groups under their CSR project to place an order for festive gifting. This is a way of supporting our women cell by buying Jugaad products for festive gifting’s as well as promoting Karm Marg’s work as we are reaching more people through this method and our network grows ever more.

We also participated in different private school festivals and annual day fairs to spread awareness about the environment and how to creatively use waste to convert it into a useful product.

Shikjha, an intern, joined Jugaad in the month of October for a three month training program. During her training she explored designing, product development, stitching and converting waste in to a sellable product.