

ACT "Accessing Care & Treatment"
Ensuring that HIV infected and affected children continue to live life to the fullest



Freedom Foundation is an NGO /registered trust started in 1993 as a dream of two friends who had witnessed first hand the devastation of alcoholism and drug abuse. Began work in the field of substance abuse and then due to the urgent need of the times, started working for People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) in 1996. Established 52 centres across five states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Goa and Maharashtra offering comprehensive care and support to over 50000 HIV positive beneficiaries. In the year 2000, initiated Highly Active Anti-Retro-viral Treatment (HAART) program. PMTCT (Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS) was started in the year 2002 and reached more than 4 lacs of pregnant women for Voluntary Counseling and Testing.

The Foundation is currently working with two centres in Bangalore and Hyderabad: Child Care Centre & Treatment centre. Freedom Foundation's childcare programs stem from a belief system that every child has a right to their childhood – a hopeful existence free of exploitation, violence, neglect, illness and extreme poverty. Children need education, health services, consistent support systems as well as love, hope and encouragement; all these things and more are required in order to experience childhood to the fullest, and to eventually develop into healthy, capable adults.

The Foundation endeavors to protect and uphold the rights of marginalized children especially those living with / affected by HIV and empower them – most of who are from economically poor backgrounds and are thus vulnerable to exploitation.

The child care initiative of the Foundation was a response to the disease, death and abandonment that children faced after the demise of their parents. The disease and financial burden caused by HIV on the family, make the children infected / affected vulnerable to various social evils like child labour and trafficking to sex work& other sexual abuse.

By enhancing access to treatment and psycho-social care, the Foundation ensures that the children while remaining healthy continue to pursue education and life skills training and are thus protected from these threats.

Currently the Foundation caters to over 200 children/families in the community with medicine, nutrition and education support. 'Positive kids' and 'Diya', the two child care initiatives of the Foundation are currently home to 40 HIV +ve children. The organization is looking for further scope/possibilities to reach and serve more PLHIV families.

Freedom Foundation Highlights

- Registered in 1993 as a charitable trust and began work with addiction and substance abuse
- Natural progression to HIV/AIDS care in 1995 and scaled up over the years across various states & districts in India
- Child care initiated in 2000 and expanded over the years to reach hundreds of children
- Highly Active Anti-Retro-viral Treatment (HAART) program initiated in 2000 with a rapid scale up in 2005
- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV launched in 2000

Immediate Needs

1. Sustain the protected environments of "Positive Kids" & "Diya"
2. Sustain the medico-psycho-social components including nutrition & education



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