

U&I OPERATIONS REPORT

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2011



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PROJECT MANAGEMENT

GOVERNMENT HOME FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED BOYS

Earlier this year, U&I became the official NGO partners for the Government Home for Mentally Challenged Boys. Since then, we have been working with the Home management to improve the living conditions for the boys. We found three main issues with the Home:

- + Lack of Hygiene
- + Lack of Medical Care
- + Lack of Infrastructure

In the last two months, we have:



U&I hired 4 full-time nurses to work at the Home 6 days a week. They take care of basic hygiene, wound care and physiotherapy for the boys. The nurses were trained by Florence Koederink, a specialist from Orphanage Projects, a Holland based charity which specialises in providing better institutional care to children.

Daily physiotherapy has improved the mobility in a lot of the boys. Daily wound care and dressing ensure that the boys wounds heal faster and none of their wounds get infected due to neglect.



U&I installed 4 showers and 1 hand held spray for the boys bathroom. This enables the nurses to give all the boys a bath everyday. This has directly resulted in a significant drop in the number of rashes and other skin related issues among the boys.



U&I have partnered with ProVision Asia, a Bangalore based NGO which specialises in caring for physically disabled people. A team of physiotherapists from ProVision Asia engage the boys in exercise and various physical activities for 2-3 hours a week. They are also involved in monitoring and training the nurses.

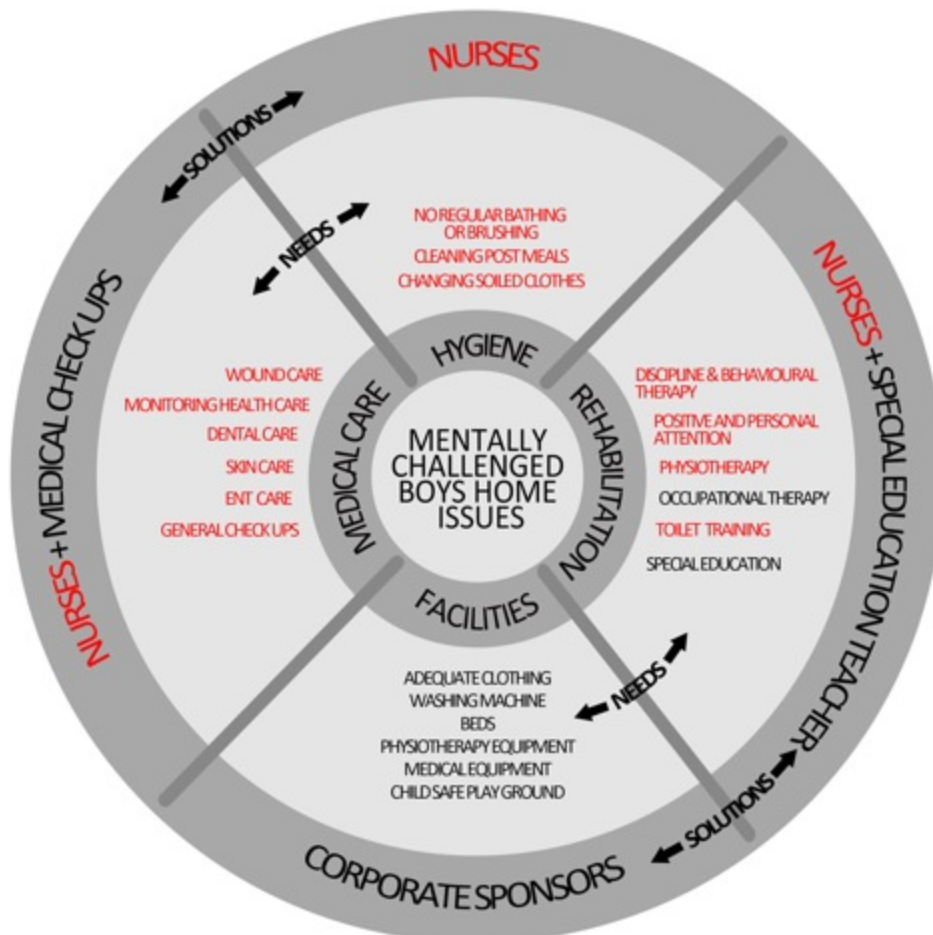




Thanks to the generous donations of some of our friends, we have also installed meshes on 20 windows in both dormitories at the Home, to protect the boys from mosquitoes and various bugs. We have also installed a sheet metal cover for the water tank thus preventing the boys from drinking the dirty water in it. We have also installed a water purifier to provide clean drinking water for the boys



In mid-September we conducted a half day training for the staff of the Home. Florence Koederink from Orphanage Projects and Esther Beena from ProVision Asia were the facilitators. The staff were trained in two modules - 'Understanding Mental Retardation' and 'Non-violent Disciplining'. We will be conducting further trainings in the months to come on various topics related to caring for children with special needs.





AWARENESS 'VOTE TO VOLUNTEER'

VOTE TO VOLUNTEER

'Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.' - Marjorie Moore.

Vote to Volunteer is an awareness campaign which U&I hosts in colleges and corporates inspiring students and employees to get involved in social action. With speakers from various non-profits, like Auto Raja, RJ Saggy, Anita Kanaiah and others, talking about the amazing work that they do in our city, it is an inspiring workshop which challenges students and employees to get involved and make a difference. Every workshop ends with a practical session on how they can get involved, where the different volunteering opportunities are presented to the students and they choose which project they would like to volunteer in.

U&I has hosted Vote to Volunteers workshops in 3 colleges - St. Josephs College of Arts & Sciences, Jyoti Nivas University and Mount Carmel College. We have had more than 100 volunteers sign up for different projects from these colleges and are now working on placing them in different projects.





VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

7 DAYS OF CHANGE

7 DAYS OF CHANGE

U&I has come a long way in the past year - from having one project on a Sunday evening with 5 volunteers to having 11 projects spread across all 7 days of the week with over 100 volunteers reaching more than 400 people, is amazing. We call it '7 Days of Change'.

MONDAY

COMPUTER BASICS COURSE - MS WORD, POWERPOINT, EXCEL

Partner: Oasis
Students: 11
No. Of Volunteers: 4

TUESDAY

SPOKEN & WRITTEN ENGLISH BASIC & INTERMEDIATE COURSE

Partner: Jesus Team Ministries
Students: 25
No. Of Volunteers: 4

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION + TUTORIALS + MUSIC/DANCE COACHING

Partner: Balakiya Bala Mandira
Students: 40
No. Of Volunteers: 12

WEDNESDAY

SPOKEN & WRITTEN ENGLISH BASIC COURSE

Partner: Karunalaya
Students: 20
No. Of Volunteers: 2

SPOKEN & WRITTEN ENGLISH BASIC COURSE

Partner: Oasis
Students: 12
No. Of Volunteers: 2



THURSDAY

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION + TUTORIALS + MUSIC/DANCE COACHING

Partner: Crisis Intervention Centre
Students: 30
No. Of Volunteers: 10

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Partner: Shelter of Love (Shelter for Abused Women)
Students: 7
No. Of Volunteers: 4



FRIDAY

SPOKEN & WRITTEN ENGLISH BASIC, INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED COURSE

Partner: Oasis
Students: 25
No. Of Volunteers: 10

SUBJECT TUTORINGS

Partner: Shishu Mandir
Students: 21
No. Of Volunteers: 10



Saturday

SPOKEN ENGLISH INTERMEDIATE COURSE

Partner: Shishu Mandir
Students: 135
No. Of Volunteers: 4

Sunday

SPECIAL EDUCATION SESSIONS

Partner: Home for Mentally Challenged Boys
Students: 72
No. Of Volunteers: 25



U&I MAKE A DIFFERENCE



EVENTS

LATIN FOOD FESTIVAL

TYPE: Fundraiser

DATE: 25 September

ATTENDANCE: 250 people

LOCATION: Prestige Ozone, Whitefield

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS: Corazon Latino

CAUSE: Home for Mentally Challenged Boys

In collaboration with Corazon Latino, an expat group which has been involved with the Mentally Challenged Boys Home, U&I hosted a Latin Food Festival which had food from 11 different countries. More than 30 families contributed by cooking mouth watering food from their countries. With bouncing castles, kids games, face painting, jewellery & handicrafts stalls, pinatas & clothing stalls, Bollywood dance performances and some great music, the Food Festival was buzzing with life on a Sunday afternoon. With food sales, raffles, sponsorships and auctions put together we raised just over Rs. 2,00,000/-.

The event also gave U&I exposure within the expat community. From this event, we hope to capitalise on some of the connections made at the event. The response to the event was better than anyone expected. Plans are underway to host another Food Festival next year.



TRIP TO DECATHLON

TYPE: Sports Day

DATE: 25 August

ATTENDANCE: 35 boys + 15 volunteers

LOCATION: Decathlon, Sarjarpur Road

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS: Home for Mentally Challenged Boys

Thanks to the generous donations of a few friends, U&I took 35 special needs boys for a fun morning at Decathlon. It was the first outing to Decathlon for the boys and only their second outing all year long. They had a great time with different races, jumping on the trampoline, playing football, basketball and throwing the sticky ball. Cintia and Jessica also organised snacks for the boys. Decathlon rented us their facilities at a reduced rate.

Even the bus ride to Sarjarpur was a huge event for the boys. They kept talking about it for weeks after the event. The plan is to make a visit to Decathlon a monthly event for the boys.





MEDIA REPORT

INDIAN EXPRESS

Vote-for-a-change campaign

Express News Service

It was a vote-for-a-change campaign at St Joseph's Arts and Science College on Saturday but of a different kind. U&I, a non-governmental organisation conducted a 'Vote to Volunteer' workshop to rope in students as 'agents of change' and familiarise them with the opportunities in social work. The workshop offered students a realistic picture of the kind of issues that need to be addressed with a variety of speakers narrating their experience as change makers. The event saw speakers like

RJ Saggy, Auto Raja and Anita Kanaiah, director of Oasis.

"We are not only raising awareness about the need that exists but are providing the students with sustainable volunteer opportunities where they can truly use their talents and skills to make a difference", said Karishma Christopher, project manager, U&I. The challenge, however is not in finding volunteers but in keeping their interest in social work alive.

"We have many community initiatives that make volunteers feel like a team",

said Ajit Sivaram, volunteer manager, U & I.

At the workshop, the topics of discussion ranged from education to human trafficking and abuse. Speaking about her personal experience with rescuing children from trafficking, Anita Kanaiya, said that the problem of rehabilitation is crucial and that there are good and bad days when working for a cause like that. She urged the students to vote to volunteer and said that the workshop was an important step in making students aware of the kind of work that needs to be done.