



December 2011 Newsletter

2011 Year in Review

Welcome back for the year end update! We are pleased that 2011 was a positive year for rebuilding and restructuring at Upakriti. This year we accomplished many key milestones: in April we unveiled our new and improved website, in July we relaunched the newsletter, and in August we returned to the fundraising scene with our annual Sun Fun picnic. Most importantly true to our mission we honed and focused our energy to ensure education continuity for underprivileged children in India. This year Upakriti partnered with several NGOs including: CHES, SOCARE, and AIM for SEVA. We feel privileged to have been able provide monetary support for these amazing community based organizations!

2011 Sun Fun – A Huge Success!

On August 6th, Upakriti hosted a fabulous picnic event benefitting Community Health Education Society (CHES). It was a beautiful summer day filled with great friends and fun games. We want to especially thank **Vishwanath** for making and providing the delicious homemade food! The food received rave reviews.

It was wonderful to see people of all ages get into the mix – from grandparents to toddlers!



The competitive spirit was strong among all of the groups as they were challenged to win matching charity funds from one of our anonymous donors.



Overall we raised \$1650 through onsite, recurring, and in-kind donations! Your generous support made an enormous impact and enabled us to meet our goal of supporting 10 AIDS affected children continue with their educational endeavors.



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Spotlight: Community Health Education Society (CHES)

CHES was founded by Dr. P. Manorama to cater to the needs of orphans of AIDS in the outskirts of Chennai. Since inception it has taken flight and reached a stage where its activities address the whole spectrum of community needs – child welfare, health, and women’s issues. Projects have included: (1) Community awareness campaigns focusing on disease prevention , high-risk group intervention, and on the removal of the stigma surrounding AIDS (2) Programs to show how to care and provide both psychological and social support for affected children and (3) Building a medical network of doctors, nurses, caregivers, counselors, etc. To learn more about CHES, please visit their website at: www.cheschennai.org.

Volunteer Viewpoint by Revathy Sankaranarayanan

My name is Revathy Sankaranarayanan. I came to US in 2009 after marriage. I came to know about Upakriti through my husband as he is also involved with Upakriti. Since I haven't been involved with any Non-Profit organization before, everything that is being done in Upakriti was a new experience for me.

While in India, I used to visit orphanages in my hometown once or twice a year and do some kind of donation. Nothing more than that ... I have also not seen people engaging in lot of NGO activities. But here, I see people getting involved in lot of NGO activities. I am really amazed at The scale in which these are happening in US. So many lives are getting transformed everyday as a result of these activities, not just for the people in India, but also for the people over here. By doing such selfless service, it gives so much happiness, joy and a big mental break from the hectic life. It gives a different meaning to this life. By merely existing as a human being doing mundane activities, there is not much joy in life; there is only stress in life. But, when we do something for others who are in real need of help, it gives us so much contentment in our lives. And I am very grateful to Upakriti for giving me such an opportunity for being useful to others.

Initially, I had some questions about Upakriti as to who all started it, how was it started, what motivated them to start it and how they work towards achieving their mission. When I came to know that it was started by just a group of friends fresh out of university 10 years back I was amazed to know that they had such thoughts of doing selfless service at such an early age itself ! And what most impressed me is the fact that they were helping the needy and underprivileged children in India. Even though Upakriti has been supporting handful number of projects,



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they have been doing so consistently for the last 10 years.

All these facts inspired me to get involved with Upakriti and do something for the children in India !

Moving into 2012 ...

We have many exciting adventures ahead of us as we move into 2012. We are currently reviewing donation

requests from several worthy charitable organizations. We plan to award grants in the early part of next year. Also we look forward to your continuing support. Get the year started on the right foot, please add Upakriti to your company's matching donation program. Every dollar counts!

Again we thank you for all of your support in 2011. We wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season!

