



May 2013 Newsletter

2013 – An Amazing Start

Welcome Back! We hope that the start of 2013 has brought you many wonderful blessings! We're excited to tell you about the many great things we have planned for the upcoming year.

We have kicked off several new initiatives to further enhance our charitable efforts. First we're happy to announce that we have engaged with another worthy organization Sai Krushna Charitable Trust (SKCT) near Bangalore, India. SKCT's motto "MOVING FROM EDUCATION TO EDUCARE - an approach to refinement of head, heart and hand" resonated deeply with our board members. SKCT is committed to serve deprived children with love and provide them a life of purpose and honor. Check out the Spotlight section for more details about SKCT's mission and how Upakriti is helping them with sponsorship.

We've also started an intense social media publicity campaign to let you and the community know the latest news on Upakriti's activities. We have a revamped Facebook page and we're now even easier to find. Search for Upakriti and be sure to "Like us". We're up to 247 likes and hope to hit 500 by the end of June. We're now on Twitter too. Follow our tweets at @upakriti.

Finally we've committed to be more visible to our donors and the local non-profit

scene. On June 15, 2013 we will be hosting a Donor-Volunteer Appreciation event. Please keep a look out for an invitation to this special event. Also on July 14th we'll be participating again in Sevathon 2013. We hope to capitalize on last year's success and recruit even more runners for the cause! On September 15th, we'll be hosting our famous SunFun picnic. Be prepared for fun, food, and lots of friendly competition 😊.

Partner Organization Updates

We are pleased to let you know that our partner organizations are doing well! The children of SOCARE are in the midst of their end of year exams and are studying hard. Five of the children who have been with SOCARE since the age of 5, will be returning during the summer. They will continue their studies in PUC and Engineering. Two top students Sohan and Sadashiva, are doing especially well and will receive Distinction Marks!



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AIM for Seva continues to make amazing strides growing by 125% this year. They have started work on two new student homes one in Kerala and one in Lucknow. AIM for Seva especially is excited as the Lucknow location will be the 100th free student home! In addition they have added a new pilot program, Theater for Development, which allows students to express their thoughts and ideas through drama. The program intends to supplement the classroom learning in a fun and engaging way. All students from kindergarten through high school are encouraged to participate. We're also pleased to report that so many of the AIM for Seva students are thriving in not only academics, but also arts and sports. To learn more please check out their quarterly newsletter at www.aimforseva.org.

The children of CHES are also thriving. We received positive progress updates from Dr. Manorama. The students are doing very well in their studies like math, English, and art. We're happy to share some of the beautiful work of these young minds below. Enjoy!

A Poem from Ramesh – 8th Standard

“One cup full of tea

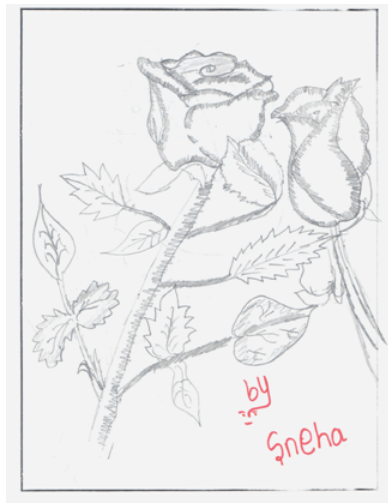
Tea full of sweet

Sweet full for you”

Sellakumar – 6th Standard



Sneha – 6th Standard





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Spotlight –Sai Krushna Charitable Trust (SKCT)

Sai Krusha Charitable Trust (SKCT) was founded in September 2010 under the auspicious blessings and instructions of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Located outside of Bangalore, India the organization's vision is to create a self reliant society where love and brotherhood are the guiding principles. Upakriti will help SKCT fund the educational initiatives at the Sharavathi Higher Primary School in Hosadoddi Village. Two hundred and eight children from five villages attend the k-7th grade school, receiving a free education and meal everyday. As the only free school within 30 kilometers, for some this is the only avenue for formal education. It is critical that these students get the best educational start and are equipped to pursue higher opportunities after they graduate. SKCT is focused on a three part plan, which will help the Sharavathi Higher Primary School build for the future. One part is focused on improving the transportation to and from the school. Many students and teachers do not live within walking distance, and are reliant on public transportation. This travel can be cumbersome and a detriment to

attendance. SKCT is planning to purchase a private school bus for both teachers and students so that distance is no longer a barrier. Another part of the plan involves securing and retaining talented teachers. Although the teachers are dedicated, the salaries today makes it is prohibitive for them to stay for an extended career. Competitive salaries will allow SKCT to recruit and attract the best and brightest teachers. Finally, the curriculum is also undergoing an evolution. SKCT would like to gradually introduce English medium teaching to the students. Upakriti is impressed by the spirit and work of SKCT. We are proud to have partnered with SKCT to help them bring their three part plan to fruition!



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SEVATHON 2013



On July 14, 2013 we'll be at Sevathon 2013 in the Sunnyvale Baylands. We hope that you will join us so that again we can support the children of CHES, SOCARE, AIM for Seva, and SKCT for another school year! Please join Team Upakriti for a 5K and 10K walk/jog/run, or for the hardcore runner a half-marathon.

To register as a runner or to sponsor an existing runner for Team Upakriti, go to our homepage www.upakriti.org or to www.konnectme.org for details. From the konnectme.org website: Runners should register and look for Upakriti under the Causes tab. Follow the instructions for "Returning or First Time Sevathon

registrant." On the registration page, please make sure you select Upakriti under "Choose Your Cause".

Sponsors should search for Upakriti and select Upakriti under the non-profit header. You will be automatically directed to our fundraising page. Select the team member (Konnector) you will be sponsoring or if you prefer remain anonymous. Enter the amount of your donation, and complete your payment information.

A Note of Commitment

Upakriti has been busy this quarter and is excited for what's ahead in 2013. We've gone through a lot of transitions through the past two years for the better. Our commitment to supporting the educational needs of India's children is forever strong. It's been a lot of hard work, but we are happy to be moving forward. We hope that you will continue to support us on this incredible journey.

See our updates at www.upakriti.org