



"Care and love to all"

Annual Report of 2010-2011



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Thanks a million!

Dear Friends,

It always amazes us to see the cooperation and understanding extended by the donor organizations and individual donors: we learn from how they see the issues we face. We are very much grateful to every single staff member, the volunteers of Regenboog India, our precious donors and all of our well-wishers. Their motivating words, continuous support and encouragement during difficult times help us work with more consistent energy.

In particular, our major supporters have our gratitude for understanding the problems and waiting patiently for official permission to give. Also, my sincere thanks go out to Ms.Sabine Kraut, who sponsored the mobile clinic, without her support we wouldn't able to serve patients at this high level. Now we are happy to share this report with you all.

Summary of the Year

Regenboog has completed 5 years of service in the field with many challenges and successes. Some of our ongoing difficulties persisted this year also. But the 'never give up' mentality inside us made almost everything run the way we planned. All of these challenges and even failures have strengthened our courage and interest in serving the people. Our application to accept foreign donations has been stalled with the Government since December 2009. This has made a huge negative impact on all projects, especially the slated developmental activities. But we give thanks to the local donors who helped us manage the day-to-day operation of projects. We hope we get official permission in the near future. (Thinking positively: this delay is helping us to better understand needs in the field and the responses required.)

The medical project provided treatment to 33,337 patients in 2010-2011. The TB-awareness program was started at a very basic level in remote villages, with the support of the Government of India. Our evening schools are supporting 278 kids. The children's home project started fine tuning itself and is ready to open its doors to more children in the coming year.

Highlights from the Year

The following lists important new initiatives and achievements that developed in the 2010-2011 year:

- ✚ Evening school was set up in Puliur, Jawadhu Hills.
- ✚ The Mobile clinic started its service on the 14th April 2010.
- ✚ Mobile clinic field coverage expanded to include the Jawadhu Hills.
- ✚ Sarasvathi Children Home was approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Brief Highlights

Puliyur Evening School

An evening school was started in Puliyur, which is in Jawadhu hills. Its headmaster approached us to support their students, since there are only 2 teachers working for more than 150 pupils. Regenboog started assisting these students in the evenings with 4 part-time teachers.

Mobile Clinic Services Started

After all the clearances were obtained, the mobile clinic finally started its service on the 14th April 2010, officially. We have begun driving it into the villages from Monday to Friday, and it spends one Saturday every month serving Vedyappanur Village.

Updates on Our Major Initiatives this Year



Sarasvathi Children Home

Last year the Government's social welfare department directed us not to keep boys and girls together in the house when they are over 10 years old. We were asked to maintain a house for boys and a house for girls. But running two houses was not possible, so we had a discussion with the kids and their guardians. After this hearty meeting, it was decided that we should admit our 5 boys to the residential school in Jawadhu Hills. The children's home now has only two boys who are less than 10 years old (Ramu & Aravindhan). Also, it was decided that when they reach 10 years they will be shifted to our other children's home. This reserves the Sarasvathi Children Home especially for girls in the future, so there are now 13 children in all (11 girls and 2 boys).

In November 2010, we received the Government's approval letter for the children's home, which is valid until the 31st of October 2013. Now, it would be rather helpful also to receive governmental support on ration supplies (for just a few food items like rice, wheat and sugar) — we can only wait to see how that might turn out.

It was decided to increase the number of children to 25 next year, once we are granted FCRA permission to accept foreign donations.

The superlative efforts of the staff at the children's home must to be mentioned here. They provided their unconditional support to the kids in countless ways. Their love and care exceeded expectations during this past year.

Since the older kids are starting to understand the wider world, it is important for a familiar and committed staff to look after their welfare as they grow.

Like the previous years, all important festivals were celebrated at the children's home. Mr. Alexius and Matty were even with the kids during the great Diwali festival.

We have taken the children to Chennai where they saw the planetarium and Science Park. We also took them to explore the temples and massive stone carvings in Mahabalipuram. Afterward, we all enjoyed being on the fresh sea-side!

The Mobile Clinic



An important milestone this year was the commencement of the Mobile Clinic's services. Even though the clinic was inaugurated by the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 9th March 2010, it was not cleared to begin actual service until 14th April 2010. The mobile clinic visits different villages from Monday to Friday, and then devotes one Saturday of every month to maintaining the good health of students at the Arunachala Village School in Vedyappanur (about 10 km from Tiruvannamalai).

Initially there were some practical problems associated with providing mobile medical services, but nearly all of those have been addressed with appropriate care. 33,000 patients received treatments from doctors aboard the clinic. This was possible only by the outstanding efforts of the mobile clinic's team. They never hesitated to help, and they thought nothing of working into the late hours making the most of their shifts. Unfortunately, we could not work during March because generally doctors were not available for these gruelling humanitarian missions.

In particular, the mobile clinic has been visiting the villages in the Jawadhu Hills where medical help has been sorely needed. For the first 4 months their inhabitants were visited 3 days a week (Wednesday to Friday), but later it was shortened to 2 days per week in order to accommodate our doctors' availability. They stayed in the hills for two nights on one trip, and on a different trip they stayed overnight once. During these missions they have given treatments well into the night. This obvious dedication of the mobile clinic's team instilled a deep confidence among village people, and raised their hope in practical solutions for their health problems.

During visits, our team identified and treated a wide array of health problems in the field. Even for basic health concerns like dressing wounds, colds, coughs, fevers, etc., villagers must either find a way to the health centre located in the main village, or they just bear the pain and live through it. Particularly in the case of elderly people, it is not easy reaching the Government health centre; they have faced many problems on account of this obstacle. But now villagers are happy and satisfied with the unique attention given by our mobile clinic team, who can come to them.

In September, we joined together with the Adhidhi Ashram of Tiruvannamalai in conducting a special medical camp for the 'sadhus' (wandering mendicants and yogis, who are often vexed by chronic health issues from overexposure).

Also, from September to February, the mobile clinic team participated in the medical camps organized by the Yogi Ram Surat Kumar Ashram in Tiruvannamalai, this time for the general public.

We encountered unimaginable problems during the official registration of the mobile clinic project. But after prolonged efforts cutting through red tape, everything was sorted out and the mobile clinic was finally registered with the transport authorities. But it had taken almost 8 months to do it! We are very much grateful to Mr. Damodaran of Chennai, who helped us resolve these administrative issues.

In November, Ms Thea Hemmer (a member of Stichting Medisch Kampen India) visited the mobile clinic project; she appreciated the work of its team.

In February, Prof. Juch Dick and his wife Margaret visited the project, at which time he gave many nuggets of useful advice and new ideas for the project.

And finally, as we said earlier, with the support of the Government of India this year our TB awareness program started serving remote villages at a very basic level. It has reached out to about 100,000 people — whenever TB was identified; the affected people have been referred to the Government's TB Hospital in Tiruvannamalai. We have decided to continue this service in the coming years as part of our proposed health education program.



Evening Schools



During 2010-11, Regenboog started a new evening school in Puliur, which is located in the Jawadhu hills, serving 113 students, as well as another centre in Tiruvannamalai's V.O.C. Nagar, serving 25 students. Unfortunately, on account of practical problems with teachers' availability and a few other reasons, the Arasavalli, Mandaparai and Samuthiram tuition centres had to be closed in December

Many friendly competitions have been conducted, like the previous years, to motivate the kids and hone their skills. They all participated keenly!

We also enjoyed meetings with parents to discuss their children's educational development over the year. They were happy with the progress of their kids, and they all promised their continuous cooperation into the future.

Lastly, notebooks were distributed to the students who this year helped the Forest Department deal with the fire on the Arunachala hills. This volunteering experience is being provided to our pupils in order to motivate them about working to protect Nature around us.

Library

This year one modest initiative started: It has been a long time dream of Madhan's to create a good library for the children. Nowadays children are almost completely dropping the habit of reading — switching to the television, phones, computers and the Internet. Another problem for the kids from poorer families is that books are too expensive; they simply cannot afford to read.

When this sad fact was shared with the well-wishers of Regenboog India, they started donating lots of books to give away and to keep in a collection especially for kids without the means to buy them (but for everyone else, too). After collecting various good books, this idea of a simple library project turned into the idea of a *mobile* library: let the books go out to the students, instead of making them go to a library! With the support of volunteer Mr. Ramana, it becomes a practical reality. He started carrying the books around in a box, distributing them to the students in our evening schools and at another charity evening school at Tiruvannamalai.

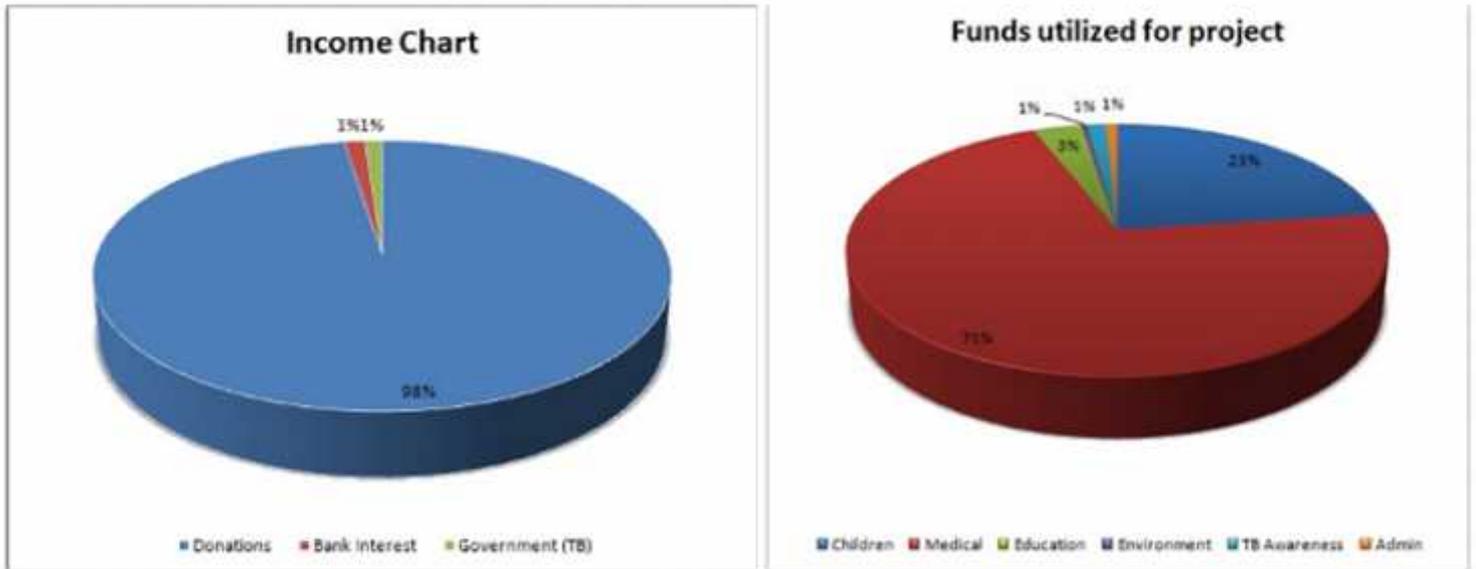
Students are happy as larks now that they have had books brought to their doorstep, and with this also they get a chance to read a greater variety of books.

Finally, in January we planted around 500 saplings at the Regional Transport offices' campus, where we also appointed a volunteer to take care of those saplings.



Finance

As usual, this year all of our account books were audited (by Renganathanagarajan & Co., Chartered Accountants, Tiruvannamalai) and also filed with the income tax department and the FCRA department in the Government of India. All of these audited financial documents are available on our website and also by request at any time. This information is publicly displayed within the mobile clinic and in our office.



Areas to Improve

Evening school at the Tiruvannamalai Samuthiram colony was closed over the poor attendance of the students, and staffing issues. Students had resorted to finding different tuition on their own, which made it reasonable to close the Samuthiram evening school. This event offered a good lesson with respect to observing the staffs in all of our projects as closely as possible at all times. Health became an important issue this year at the children's home. Children tended to get sick many times during the year, which will be addressed henceforth by increased awareness of all domestic health factors.



Donations from within India can and logically should increase, so we need to focus on this exigency much more in future, alongside the ability to receive support from abroad. Gaining the support of local volunteers must become a bigger focus.

Our website still shows old content that must be updated with the most current information (like this that you are reading right now!). So this is a simple and obvious area to improve: providing the latest project information on the website.

Conclusion

Even though we had a tough time of it this year, we delivered services to their beneficiaries with our level best efforts. We feel that still we have a long way to go towards our ultimate project goals. Now is the time to find solutions for the lingering troubles, and in the near future hopefully we will receive all the necessary FCRA clearance (to receive foreign money). If so, the coming year will surely be a 'year of action'. Our vision for the immediate path ahead is to construct a children's home building, and, create a program in Jawadhu Hill for health care services and health education. We are certain that with support from all of you we can keep on the right track.



😊 *Thanks a million to all of you!*