

**Rural Literacy & Health Programme**  
343, Gayathripuram 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, Udayagiri P.O., Mysore-19

**Asha Bhavana (Rehabilitation home for street girl children)**

We sincerely thank Lee and Sue Coates for their generous efforts to raise funds for the girl children in Asha Bhavana. Their contribution will be used for food, clothes and educational fees of children. A special thanks to them for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

“Asha Bhavana”, a rehabilitation home for street girl children, is being run by RLHP since 1999 in Mysore. Children who are deprived of parents’ love and care, and are abused both at home and school run away from home and come to street. They live on street and take up menial jobs for living. Generally the girl children take to begging and in that process they are also subjected to abuse. These children are not only denied of their right to happy childhood but also harassed and abused by others. As a measure to restore their childhood to them, RLHP started ‘Asha Bhavana’ wherein total care is given including health care, counseling, personal guidance, education, games, computer education, skill training, and cultural activities of singing, dance, music and craft. Presently there are 20 girl children who receive care in Asha Bhavana. With the support of staff, all children do well in school and extra curriculum activities.

Radha, a 17 year old girl, has presently completed first year of diploma course in Commercial Practice. Krupa, a 19 year old girl, after completing her studies is currently working and leading an independent life.

Most of the children after they pass 10<sup>th</sup> standard public exam pursue further studies to be able to secure job and lead independent life. While some children are placed in likeminded institutions for further care, those who have parents are reunited at home where the home conditions are suitable. Until date about 90 children have been rehabilitated.



## Success stories of Street girl children

### A domestic girl child aspiring to be a teacher



Life seemed to be bleak for Vijaya, a 7 year old girl from Kollegala, a small town. Being orphaned at a young age, she lived with her uncle who, refusing to send her to school, instead sent her to do domestic work. As days passed by, her uncle, aunt and the employer began to abuse her. A RLHP staff after talking to the employer, got Vijaya freed from the employer and brought her to the 6 month bridge school programme in Mysore run by RLHP. With the support and encouragement of RLHP, she was later enrolled in “Asha Bhavana”. The love, care, counseling and personal guidance helped her to heal her wounds and to grow with self confidence. With coaching in non-formal education, she appeared for 7<sup>th</sup> standard exam and then joined a regular school. After passing 10<sup>th</sup> standard, she completed 10+2 Pre-University Course in 1<sup>st</sup> class with high marks in May 2008. She is quite happy with her achievements. She now wants to pursue her studies in Tch (training for teachers) for 2 years and become a teacher.

### From rags to excellence



Ishwari, along with her mother and sisters lived on street, eking out life on street through begging. Her life seemed to be an endless tunnel. However she began to see a ray of light when a staff from RLHP met her on street and talked to her about the benefits of Asha Bhavana. Soon she joined Asha Bhavana. The total care of love and affection soon helped her to come to terms with her past and bloom as a confident person. With the support of coaching given by staff, she joined regular school. The grit and determination yielded fruits. She passed her 10<sup>th</sup> standard public exam with 1<sup>st</sup> class with high marks in May 2008. Beaming with confidence, she wants to study engineering course for five years more.

It is with the support of kindhearted people like you that these children today can enjoy their childhood, and dream of bright future tomorrow. On behalf of these forgotten children, we sincerely thank you and your team members for the valuable support given for the children.

Thanks  
Warm regards  
Sincerely  
Philomena Joy  
Director

13 May 2008