



Contents

- *The Eklavya Experience*
- *TCS Pune joins the Race against Aids*
- *Celebrations at Niradhar*
- *Christmas 2008 at Sofosh*



The Eklavya Experience

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

Volunteers from TCS Pune CS team celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at Eklavya on 02 Oct 08. A quiz was conducted on "Freedom Struggle and Pre-Independence Era" in which 19 students from class 7-10 participated. The quiz comprised three rounds; General, Visual and Buzzer. The quiz was conducted by Akshay Wagh, winner of Sakaal Mind Game Corporate Quiz along with Abha, and support from Amruta Bhawe and Virag Rokde especially for the Marathi translation. TCS volunteers present cheered the teams and made the event a resounding success.

Medical Check up for Children

A medical check up for children at Eklavya was organized in the month of October 2008 with the support of Dr. Mrunal Panchanadikar, spouse of TCS associate Milind Panchanadikar. Her commitment and dedication has helped in a big way to make a difference in a short time despite the challenges faced. Dr Mrunal has completed four successful visits to Eklavya. The initially shy and reserved children gradually opened up and started sharing their health issues with the doctor. A register is now being maintained to record the health details of each child. Ayurvedic medicines are being procured and provided to the children.

Building Language Skills

One of our associates Manish Sarada along with the TCS team visited Eklavya to provide some general tips for English speaking and reading to the children of 9th class, coupled with some extra knowledge that would help them in the long run. The kids were enthusiastic when it came to learning new things. They played some interesting word games similar to what is being done at the ILP, followed by story reading and practicing word pronunciations. The session ended with a happy note with children wanting to continue similar sessions in the next week. Later, all of them gathered in a hall to observe two minutes silence to pay tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai. The children were explained how we are sleeping soundly at night, because there are soldiers who provide security for us. The expression on the faces of children showed that they understood the importance of sacrifices made by soldiers. The seriousness of the environment touched the heart of the children and they craved for the much needed affection and security. It was really a touching experience.

Christmas Celebrations

On 25 Dec 08, a team of volunteers reached Eklavya an hour before the scheduled celebrations to decorate the building and get the Christmas spirit rolling. By 2 o'clock, many more volunteers had turned up, all contributing in their own way, but more importantly, eager to make a difference. The atmosphere suddenly went uproar with cheers and laughter on the arrival of Santa marked by singing of Christmas carols and distribution of sweets and chocolates. After this, the children were encouraged to come on the stage and perform. The energies emanating from their performances in singing, dancing & enacting a skit were truly commendable. Sweets were again distributed to the children who had shown boldness to come on stage and perform in front of a huge audience. This was followed by the cake cutting ceremony and distribution of gifts by Indrayani tai. Overall, active participation from the TCS Pune CS team and the enthusiastic response from Eklavya management ensured that children at Eklavya had a ball during this year's Christmas and made the event a great success. One could see their faces glistening with joy.

WE CARE



TCS wins the 'Best Theme Award' at 23rd Pune International Marathon



For the third consecutive year, TEAM TCS participated in the Pune International Marathon keeping in line with the theme of leadership for World Aids Day 2008. With placards and banners displaying “**Lead by Action; Lead by Example - We Care**”, Team TCS joined the sea of people who took to Pune roads on the December 7 2008 and bagged the **Best Theme Award**. 350+ runners participated from TCS Pune with close to 50 runners in the 10km event, and the rest in the 4.5km ‘AIDS Charity Run’.

A special part of the TCS contingent was the energetic group of young children of Eklavya Nyasa, an NGO that looks after under-privileged children. TCS Pune is associated with this NGO and has been supporting them through many of their initiatives.

The participation of TCS Pune this year was very well planned across the board and executed with perfection. Through registrations from TCS Pune, a total of **Rs. 48,000/-** was collected and contributed to Project Concern International, an NGO working towards HIV/AIDS prevention in Pune.

The spirit of the TCSers who participated in this race was echoed by a senior group leader at Pune, Mr. Harindra Yadav who participated enthusiastically and also encouraged many to join in. “Each one of us can make a difference to the society’. We wanted to get this momentum built in the mind of our associates. “We Care”, “Lead by Action” and “Lead by Example” theme was well thought and I am sure, it will make a difference to our associates as well. “Leading Change” is one of the core values of TCS and we should pick up any challenge and turn that to an opportunity to demonstrate the change. In addition to the work done for the society, we also need to take care of our health and running a marathon at least once in a year is a good physical test as well. Our country is going through a tough time at the moment from all aspects (Terrorism, economy etc.) and each one of us must take small steps to make a difference to our society, people, company and country to make it a better place to live in. I ran Pune Marathon in 2007 and decided to run every year henceforth and felt that this is the right opportunity for all of us to get together and run for a cause by spreading the right message.”

Dear friends,
Wish you all a very happy new year.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in CS initiatives being taken up this year to make a difference!

Do connect with the TCS Pune Maitree Coordinator, Youthika Rai at youthika.jrai@tcs.com to volunteer for any of the activities.

Please share your contributions to CS activities to be covered in this quarterly bulletin with Lalita P at lalita.p@tcs.com.

CS team at Pune

Join in to make a difference!



Celebrations at Niradhar

Volunteers from Indigo Project visited Niradhar Balsangopan Anath Ashram on the 16 November 2008. This Ashram is an orphanage run by Mrs. Malantai Tulve. The orphanage supports 28 children between the age of 5 -16yrs. The team collected an amount of Rs 4000/- approx, which was used to provide them with fruits and groceries. The team also conducted some games for the children and distributed stationery.

The team visited them again for Christmas celebrations that went off very well with Santa distributing sweets and gifts to the children. One of our associates, Sukekshani shared her experience in these words, "This is the first time I spent Christmas with God's children and it was a heart warming experience. I was delighted to see the smile on the innocent faces which had made their day".

Christmas Celebrations @ Shreevatsa

"Is there a better way to celebrate Christmas than being & feeling like Santa himself? I have always wondered how Santa would feel while giving away gifts and goodies to the kids; I felt the same way today on Christmas Eve".

We at TCS celebrate most of the festivals with the charitable organizations and this time was no different. We divided ourselves into multiple groups and I was a part of the group that went to SOFOSH (Society of Friends of the Sassoon Hospitals, www.sofosh.org) to celebrate with the kids from Shreevatsa (meaning - Children of God). We reached there at around 3 PM and started with decorating the place with the Christmas tree, balloons and other stuff. We had also arranged for cakes and wafers. There were kids as young as 18 months to 5 years and they mingled well with all our volunteers (around 17). Then came the Santa aka Manish and the kids were overjoyed by looking at his appearance and so were we. Santa distributed toffees to the kids and the older kids (us). He spent time conversing with them in bit of Marathi that he could speak. Then Santa with the kids, cut the cakes and we had a jolly good time eating with kids.

We returned empty handed but with thoughts and memories which would remind us what one can achieve by giving something which may be small for us but would mean the world to the kids. It gives me pleasure to say "I am a part of a team which is keen on spreading happiness to the needy and would always remain a part of such an excellent team".

(Upendra Nayak)



Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to:

'Tata Consultancy Services'

In recognition to the efforts for underprivileged children

~Pankhudi Foundation expresses its heartfelt thanks to "Tata Consultancy Services, Pune" for celebrating Christmas with the kids from slum areas of Patil Estate, Pune.

We appreciate the efforts in organizing the event and bringing in some sunshine in the lives of these kids.

**~Pankhudi Foundation
December 25, 2008**