

Welcome and thank you for volunteering for Asha-Bangalore

Q: Who are we?

A: We are a group of individuals who volunteer our time to support initiatives that help the underprivileged. Our efforts are primarily focused on Education, though not limited to it. We have a varied group of individuals from those who have been working in the development area to those with full time jobs in the city.

Q: What we do?

A:

Partner with existing NGOs by

- Visiting and understanding what they do
- Identifying their strengths and areas of progress
- Support them financially
- Finding ways of strengthening areas of progress: by volunteer time or resource people in the field or exposure and networking with other organizations.

Running government intervention measures when appropriate

- Entered into a school adoption program of Govt schools and improving quality of education provided
- Supported resource people who can provide inputs to NGOs and Govt programs
- Supported individuals through fellowships to work on interventions on community development.

Q: How we do it?

A:

Projects:

- Asha volunteers spend time at projects picking up aspects they are good at to contribute to the NGOs. This also helps us, as a group, to understand the organizations better. This has been the case with many projects Asha-Blr works/worked with e.g. Sita School, Thulir, Govt school intervention, Chaitanya.
- When volunteer bandwidth is not available for direct intervention we attempt to have the project visited regularly by volunteers.
- Each project has a steward. A steward, is an Asha volunteer, who is responsible for smooth communication between the project and Asha.

Fundraising:

a) Team-Asha marathon Program

In collaboration with *Runners High* we train individuals to run a marathon or half-marathon. Over the period of 4 months of training the runners learn about asha and it's projects and fundraise towards these projects.

b) Events

We occasionally organize events e.g. taking kids from our schools out for an excursion, organizing 8km running events, etc. These events are not necessarily aimed towards fundraising, but help in increasing the awareness about asha and it's projects.

c) Calendar sales

We have worked with our project partners - Sita School (2 yrs) and Timbaktu Collective (1 yr) to make and sell hand made calendars. These funds directly go to benefit the alumni or students in these projects.

d) Support from donor base

Over the years Asha-Blr has a donor following due to the work done by the group, the zero-overheads.

Q: How can I help?

The best way to find a fit between your interest and the current need is to attend the next meeting. But, here is a list of possibilities:

With projects

1. Volunteer time at one of the projects asha supports
2. Become a steward or co-steward of an asha project and learn about the project.
3. Help organize the printing, transportation and sales of calendars from projects.
4. Help organize exposure trips for children from asha supported projects.

With web-development

Asha is an open organization that puts a lot of information online. We usually require help in web management:

1. General website maintenance and updating with the latest events, updates from projects, etc – requires basic knowledge of html
2. Team Asha co-webmaster – manage registration, help runners with creating webpages.

Fundraising

1. Help organize events like the Team Asha 8km runs
2. Help us bring out regular newsletters to inform donors of current happenings
3. Create publicity material like brochures, banners, etc.
4. Help maintain the Team Asha mailing list and tracking how the runners are doing.
5. Help with tracking donations - act as interface between the treasury team and the runners.
6. Help with designing a weekly newsletter for the Team Asha runners

Treasury:

1. Help organize online donation requests, track and follow up with potential donors
2. Interface with bank and deposit checks, cash etc.
3. Keep accounting systems updated and in sync with the bank accounts to be tallied
4. Issue receipts to donors in time
5. Maintain a secure donor data base and inform them of Asha's activities regularly
6. Respond to queries and address issues with regards to donation interface

Q: Who can I contact if I am interested in any of the above?

A: You can contact the following people with your interest:

Team-Asha/Events – Santhosh santhosh.padmanabhan@gmail.com 9986734590

Projects/Web: Sanjeev sanjeev.ranganathan@gmail.com 9449835658

You can find more information about Asha-Blr's minutes, events and projects at:

<http://www.ashanet.org/bangalore/>