



ASHA KIRAN

The Asha for Education Newsletter

Vol. 2, Issue 2, Mar-Apr 1999

About Asha

Asha for education is a non-profit voluntary organization dedicated to the support of basic education in India. Asha strives to provide financial assistance to educate underprivileged children in India and to increase awareness within the local community about these issues. Asha's actions are based on the firm belief that education is a critical and effective catalyst for social and economic change in India.

Contribute for FREE

Asha-AT&T Program: If AT&T is your long distance carrier, please call **1-800-426-0015**, select 1 and enroll in this program. Choose "Asha" as your beneficiary association. AT&T donates a percentage of your bill to Asha **at no extra cost to you!**

Asha Web Info

Go to <http://www.ashanet.org/> and check out the various links! [chapters.html](#) takes you to the 30+ Asha chapters. [projects.html](#) is where you can find out about Asha projects. [newsletters.html](#) has the old issues of *Asha Kiran*. [Infoshare/board.html](#) lets you post and read articles.

Asha chapters can use the mailing list manager and the chapter calendars for better coordination and fewer headaches!

Jobs@Asha

Web designers to work on the Ashanet projects page. (~25 hours initially, 1 hour/week after that).
Someone with good writing skills to prepare the Asha FAQ list (~10 hours total).

Please send email to comments@ashanet.org if you're interested in these positions.

Fundraisers:

On the 30th of January, Asha AZ held the *Glimpses of India*, a presentation of dance, drama, music and cuisine from the four corners of India. The event was a great success; the 800 strong audience enjoyed the folk dances, lecture demonstrations on yoga, Bharathnatyam and the fusion music. Volunteers prepared home cooked food for over 800 people, giving them a different taste of India. *Glimpses of India* helped Asha AZ garner about \$6000; it also introduced a number of potential volunteers to Asha and its activities.

Fundraisers have a dual purpose: to raise funds and, more importantly, to raise awareness about Asha. Such programs provide an avenue to reach new donors and volunteers. Fundraisers also provide volunteers with tangible results for their efforts, thus keeping alive their involvement with Asha. Volunteers get satisfaction by organizing a successful program and from working for a good cause.

All Asha chapters hold fundraisers; some like Berkeley's *Images of India* are large programs that showcase India's cultural heritage. Other chapters have organized cricket matches, Carrom tournaments, pledge drives, and concerts by distinguished musicians or local talent. Innovative ideas include tutoring programs where volunteers teach students, who donate a token amount to Asha. Chapters also collaborate with other organizations such as Net-

IP, SPIC -MACAY and AID to organize fundraisers.

Asha volunteers have come up with amazing ideas for raising funds, most of which have been wildly successful. The Work an Hour program, which was the first Asha wide fundraiser, comes to mind. The new chapters can make use of the existing ideas and expertise available with volunteers in the older chapters.

The feeling of team spirit is perhaps the best outcome of all the hard work that goes into making a successful fundraiser. The effort draws all Asha volunteers together and renews their commitment to the cause of education!



Children at the Bustee Welfare Center, an Asha* project in Calcutta.

The Asha* Program: A program that simultaneously raises funds and increases personal involvement. It enables a group of people, the Asha Stars, to fund a particular project for a period of time. They can track the project's progress, know where they are making an impact, interact with children, and thus get a sense of fulfillment. The next edition of the newsletter will explain the program in greater detail. This edition lists a few of the Asha* projects.

New Chapters!

Asha would like to welcome the newest chapters into its fold: **Davis** (Amit @ 916 781 2735), **Houston** (Diana @ 713 440 7350), **Irvine** (Rajneet @ 209 324 0576), **Yale** (Batin @ 203 772 2713), **Urbana Champaign** (Ranjini @ 217 328 046).

This kind of exponential growth in the number of Asha chapters and dedicated volunteers is essential to make an impact on education in India. Please do contact your local Asha chapter and help us tilt the odds in the battle against poverty and apathy. And don't let the lack of a local chapter dampen your enthusiasm: You can start one!

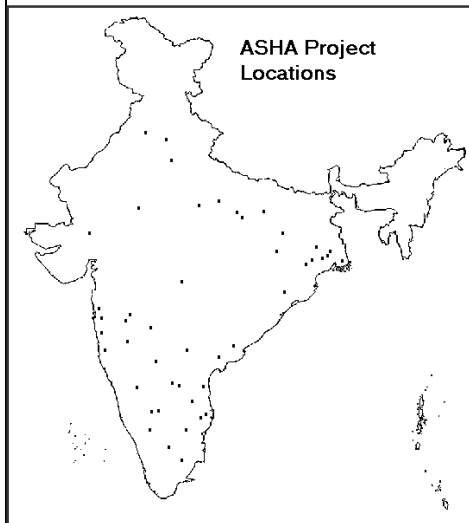
Dallas , May Contact Farida (972 599 1433)	The playgrounds at the intersection of Forest lane and Inwood road in Dallas will soon be the site of some cricketing action, thanks to Asha Dallas' double wicket tournament!
Irvine , March 3 rd , Contact Rajneet (209 324 0576)	Asha Irvine, one of the newest Asha chapters is off to a flying start! Look for the Asha booth in the UCI women festival. Volunteers are also raising money by running concession stands in the Bren Events Center during basketball games and concerts.
NYC/NJ , April 11 th , Contact Ranjeet (201 795 2193)	Surbahar , an evening of Indian film music, will be held at the Miller Auditorium in Columbia University, New York.
Silicon Valley , May 2 nd , Contact Poornima (408 730 9206)	Renowned violinist L Subramaniam and Grammy winner Vishwa Mohan Bhatt will be performing at a fundraiser for Asha and AID at the Herbst Theatre, San Francisco.
St. Louis , April 4 th , Contact Garima (314 863 8286)	Asha St. Louis will be holding its annual Carrom/Table Tennis/Chess tournament at the Gandhi Center. The event starts at 12:00 noon and will be followed by a Hindi light music concert performed by a local band.
Stanford , March 7 th , Contact Prateek (650 497 5711)	Asha Stanford is hosting a Holi celebration on March 7 th . Other than the (mandatory) playing with colours, the fundraiser at Stanford University will have Antakshari, Indian games and food.

Asha* Projects

Bustee Welfare Center, West Bengal: Since 1971, this NGO has been providing free primary education, nutrition, health care and guidance to children from slums in Calcutta. After class 7, the children are placed in outside schools and vocational training centers, and their progress monitored. Asha-NYC/NJ has given the BWC \$1500 each year, for the past two years for approx. 300 children in the three BWC schools and about 475 in other colleges and vocational training centers. Annual funding of \$1000 is raised by Tia Sircar.

Project Gahora, Uttar Pradesh: This project is intended to fund the construction of a school in Gahora, UP for grades I-IV to support 120 children. The children

currently attend an open-air school. The school building will consist of 2 rooms, a verandah and an office room. This project has been funded entirely by Dr. Ahuja, a resident of Indianapolis.



Youth Dreams, Orissa: Asha-LA has helped the government schools in 5 villages of Bhadrak District to lower its student to teacher ratio. A one-time contribution of \$800 was used to cover infrastructure and reading materials for 560 children. Annual funding of \$1200 helps in supporting 6 additional teachers at these schools. Contact Deepak Nayak (510 713-7745) for further details.

Seize the Moment, West Bengal: For children at Midnapore, who work in the fields during the day the opportunity to attend school is scarce. Asha-LA's support of \$1750 provides for uniforms, stationery and nutrition for 363 children. Provisions are also being made for medical aid and check ups for the students. Contact Kaushik Sen (818 346-2712) for more information.

By the year 2000 every second illiterate person in the world will be an Indian.

We need you!

Join Asha	Give Asha	Partake Asha	Buy Asha
Be a part of a motivated group of people	You can make tax exempt donations to Asha	Participate in various Asha events and programs	Buy Asha merchandise (calendars, mugs and cards)

You can make checks payable to "Asha for Education" and mail them to: **Asha for Education, Anthony Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.** 100% of your contributions go towards supporting Asha projects in India. All administrative expenses are borne by Asha volunteers. Asha for Education is a non profit organization.

Visit Asha on the web at <http://www.ashanet.org/>