Ashraya

Asha for Education – Central New Jersey

Project Description

Ashraya focuses on developing mentally and physically challenged girl children over the years with an ultimate vision that they would be capable enough to work as teachers in rehabilitation centers for the future generation of challenged children in their villages.

Ashraya in its initial project submission had requested for funds to build an extension to the existing infrastructure for use as a class room for its challenged daughters during the day session and as a retiring room during night. Four toilets and three bathrooms will be included as part this construction. The overall area comes to around 2000 sq. ft. The existing facility was designed to cater to 15 children, and Ashraya already has 24 children.

Asha CNJ has funded Ashraya amounting to $7,000 as of August 2005. Using this and other funds locally generated by Ashraya, the construction of the proposed extension is near complete as of October 2005.

Purpose/Goals

The main objectives of Ashraya are:

1. Providing residential rehabilitation to Mentally & Physically challenged girl children stricken with Poilo, Cerebral Palsy or Mental Retardation, and to develop them to a level of independence by which they could lead a life comparable to that of a normal child.
2. To take over the responsibilities of a challenged girl child by which the unfortunate mother would be free from the burden and enable her to go out and earn a living for the family.
3. Provide employment to physically handicapped female graduates and post-graduates as teachers. Ashraya, as a policy, provides employment only to handicapped female graduates as teachers.

Organization description:

Only 10 Percent out of 2 lakhs of challenged children in Kerala get some form of institutional care and a vast majority of them are left to fend for themselves. The deplorable condition of these children, particularly that of the female challenged child, and the helpless situation of the parents acted as an inspiration and motivation to launch a

project like this in June 2000, to provide succor and solace to these hapless ones. Ashraya currently has 24 children.

Ashraya employs a mix of formal and creative-informal teaching and training methods designed for a child's over all development with special emphasis on behavior modification and imparting training to be self reliant and independent. Physically challenged children are imparted regular teaching. Physiotherapy and aerobic exercises, clay modeling and needlework for developing gross and fine motor control are part of the training. In addition, Ashraya provides the mentally challenged children, a unique approach utilizing sound vibrations arising out of group chanting of ancient vedic hymns and regular recitation of Indian classical music. Ashraya daughters have responded very well to the training and measurable progress is observed.

NOTE: Ashraya has developed greeting cards made out of pictures drawn and painted by its daughters. When you purchase an Ashraya greeting card, the money that you give will go to Ashraya and other projects that we have involving challenged children. Please email Gopalakrishnan.praveen@gmail.com for more information.