

Asha SV chapter meeting-6/26/13

Attendees: Rekha, Manoj, Protima, Vijit \*, Reshu

\* On Phone

- School operating in Kalighat in Calcutta-they have many different projects
- the reason we are supporting the mother project is because the schools work with overall social development
- the project we support has a lot of community involvement, the mothers help with drafting the curriculum, with help in school, with local issues, etc.
- in this community a study showed that the children were dropping out of school was high, the children could not afford extra school expenses and some kids were not even interested in studying
- also studies showed that the children were not getting good teaching support, there was corporal punishment and the children were suffering overall.
- Kolkotta Municipal Corporation worked with TFS to set up a way to identify students who could get help from TFS foundation
- The mother school helps the children who have been selected with remedial classes, with school expenses, with extra curricular studies, etc.
- a lot of children get into technical education and a lot of them are also giving back to the organization
- TFS also makes an effort to get in touch with their alumni to track progress
- Asha supports about 50 kids through SAC-21 students are secondary class and 29 are higher secondary class
- 4 kids dropped out of the program, it turned out one of them just did not want to study because he was not able to pass the exam
- Last year the number for support was Rs. 76,9802
- this year the hostel fees is the same as last year and this year even though the cost is the same there are 5 kids this year totalling Rs. 1550 per child
- The annual fee is Rs. 300 per child and the books are Rs. 350 fees
- the remedial education coaching center is Rs. 570 per child because of inflation but there are only 16 kids who need it.
- the uniform cost is Rs. 290 per student and 21 students need it. This is a Rs. 20 increase from last year
- There has to be follow up for the school with each child to track progress, that amount is Rs. 300 per child, per month
- **WHY IS THE AMOUNT FOR FOLLOW UP SO MUCH? ARE WE PAYING THE ADMINISTRATORS TO DO THIS WORK?**
- The Higher level students there are 29 of them with 2 staying in the hostel. the tuition has remained the same for all students.
- Some of the students now need transport money to get to the colleges now-Rs. 200 per month (for only one student)
- the sponsorship follow up money is again Rs. 15 more than last year
- we get reports for all students in the lower grades but we are not getting many updates for kids who are in higher classes

- the issue with the follow up is a problem because we are getting a lot of feedback for lower kids but not older kids
- There is another additional cost associated with another administrator who is responsible for overseeing all the reports.
- Finally they add a 10% amount to their budget for administrative cost to the project.
- There is no measure of how they come up with the 10% amount for admin cost-how do they measure?
- It appears that about Rs. 3 lakhs of the cost is totally admin cost
- The total cost is Rs. 8,25,858
- we want a breakdown on this expense so we can get an idea of how they come up with the admin cost
- some issues that have been noted overtime with the TFS project after review is:
  - drop out rate for the kids is high: rekha said that they are getting better at it and are trying to address the causes of this issue
  - we need more update on the costs associated with the admin cost
  - we also want more information on the kids like their socio economic progress, their overall progress in terms of things that the child is doing besides academic progress
  - there was also some concerns about the success rate of these kids in school and not being able to succeed tremendously but just average
  - do they have a write up on the teaching methods that are being used in the school to teach the children.
- Manoj did a site visit in February this year-this is a big doundation that does a lot of different things like arts and crafts for womem, self help centers, etc.
- It appears that they have a goodwill in the community and the COO of the foundation, Ritvik Patrik, is very dynamic and does a lot of fundraising
- Manoj did not tell them what date he was coming. he went to the school unannounced-he went to an evening remedial class
- we have talked about why we can't improve the government schools and manoj is seeing that people are sort of banking on getting the kids to show up at private tuition class
- the students get a lot of detailed monitoring, their monthly progress, and their challenges are all tracked
- when manoj went to the visit, he saw that there were several ages of the children being helped in the remedial class. there were also some older kids.
- Manoj also met some kids who had spent time at the project and now were back in the remedial class to help the children with their progress
- the kids are also interested in additional things like soccer, drama and other things that they are able to grow as students.
- overall it is very positive and we are spending our money for a good cause
- **TFS ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST**
- TFS submitted two proposals and want 123 more kids to be supported
- it appears to be a huge number-Rs. 13,58,720-so per child SAC cost would be about \$200 per child
- but it appears to be a large number of students, if we do not get SAC donors then we will end up having to bear this cost
- where are these kids getting funding from right now?

- what if we help them to create a SAC program and that they can manage it themselves and raise money themselves
- Since they are already asking for a lot of admin costs, if we can help them create a good website then maybe they can manage the SAC website
- how about trying to support some of the 123? Ask TFS what is the number that they really need support with?
- **THERE IS ANOTHER PROPOSAL FROM THEM**
- They want to help with the kids who are not able to graduate and not able to learn from the usual methods of teaching
- they want to be able to use non traditional methods to work with these kids
- they also want to give the teachers capacity to be able to be better teachers and help the children with creative methods of teaching
- the proposal talks about new and innovative methods that are non traditional with proven track record to help the children who do not benefit from just remedial classes
- some of the things they want to be able to do is teaching the teachers, creating individual teaching plans, sharing og the children's progress with other teachers
- the cost associated with this is Rs. 4000 per month for teacher's salary and they have identified about 6 teachers that they need
- they also want to be able to do early intervention and identified that it will be most helpful for lower classes
- there is also a cost associated with the transportation.
- should we consider this as a new project or an add on?
- can we consider creating a grant for this new proposal and fund them over a period of 3 years and be done with it?
- should we know in advance how many children will be benefitted?
- we should not poll this question with the renewal-we need more information from them for the additional 123 kids, that would help us decide whether we can increase the number of kids and if we do increase the number of kids, we need to know how much per kid we can fund
- also it appears that this has to be a new project and has to be presented completely like a new project
- so Rekha will get the questions for the admin costs and other issues answered and then we will create a poll for the renewal.
- look for Rekha's email with answers to the questions