**Minutes of March 2010 Projects Meeting**

Attendees: Pawan, Kiran Nistala, Sandeep, Vivek, Debarshi, Ashwini, Arindam, Ramya. Priya, Satheesh, Bhinish, Jyotsna

Child aid foundation – Sandeep & Satheesh

Why 1 student for b.tech? What about other students from that batch? Where are they ? What is their future plan ?

Why not expand to 11th and 12th?

thinking of expanding after the next 3-4 years because the funding required for teachers and accreditation is substantial.

What would happen if we wouldn't fund them?

Voted on 4, 46 component of the project: Sandeep, Kiran, Debarshi, arindam, ramya, pawan, vivek,Ashwini, Jyotsna, Bhinish

**Communication regarding the above questions:**

**March 30, 2010**

Dear Dr. Goswami

I hope everything is great at your end. We discussed the the report and proposal you sent in our March project meeting.

We have some questions regarding the students who have already graduated from 10th grade. We would like to know how each of them is doing in education and how many of them are supported by CAF.

If I understand correctly, the first batch of students completed 10 th grade in 2008 (about 20 students). They might be about to finish their 12th grade or their poly-technique degrees. We would like to know what are further plans of these students. Also, you mentioned that one of the students is doing B.E. engineering degree, is this student from another school ? ( we thought that as the first batch from CAF completing 10th grade came up in 2008, none of these students would be old enough yet to be able to pursue a B.E. degree).

We have another volunteer, Satheesh Avvaru, in our NYC/NJ team who will be working with me on Child Aid Foundation. He is from Andhra-Pradesh and he is very keen to work on CAF.

thank you

Sandeep Kulkarni

**April 4th, 2010**

Dear Sandeep,

Hello, greetings, and best wishes! How are you? I hope that all is very well. Thank you very much for your kind letter.

We (C.A.F.) started our social service activities in Vijayawada in 1988 informally and in 1993 formally. By formally I mean we legally registered C.A.F. as a public charitable trust, opened a Trust bank account, applied for tax exemption status, applied for government recognition, and applied for Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (F.C.R.A.) registration. At that time we were not even running our own school and all the children under our care were studying in various schools, high schools, intermediates, I.T.I.s, polytechnics, and degree colleges in Vijayawada depending on their ages and academic levels. We were able to help a much smaller number of children in those days due to a relatively limited amount of funds. It was only in 2003 that we were able to start our own school from the 1st to the 5th standards. That is why our own school's first batch of 10th standard graduates was only in 2008. As you can understand from this information, however, many children at many various academic levels including post-10th standard have been studying under our care since even well before 2008. Our B. Tech student V. Vamsi Krishna is just one example of such a child. Please also keep in mind that children first join and come under the care of C.A.F. at various ages and academic levels. This is because of many reasons that occur at various times in their lives which force them to be referred to, brought to, or apply to C.A.F. for assistance.

From the very beginning, it has always been our policy that once a child is admitted under our care either on a residential or non-residential basis, C.A.F. will continue to support that child to as high an academic level as that child desires and/or is capable of achieving. We have one boy in the 10th standard in our school right now by the name of A. Mahesh. He, along with the other twenty nine 10th standard students, is presently writing the S.S.C. Public Exam. The last day of the exam is this Tuesday, April 6th. Mahesh very strongly desires to study medicine and we have assured him that if he can get a seat in a government medical college, we will sponsor him until he completes his studies. Similarly, we will continue to sponsor all of the children who are under our care as long as they remain full-time students and to as high an academic level as they desire and are capable of achieving. The only constraining factor might be the availability of sufficient funds. After they complete their studies, we can help them even with initial job placement using our very good contacts network.

Up to the 10th standard, children that have been studying under our care on either a residential or non-residential basis have been closely monitored by us because of their close proximity to our center. This is true whether they had been studying in our own school or not. Even post 10th standard we were able to monitor their class attendance and academic progress because their institutes were located in our base city. This enabled these children to visit our center regularly (which we insisted upon) and show us their exams results, progress reports, etc. We were also able to send our Headmaster or General Manager to their institutes to personally inquire about and monitor their progress.

There have been several students who completed 10th standard either in our own school or with our sponsorship who have had to leave our city and study higher education in other cities. This is due to either their families moving to those cities for various reasons such as employment opportunities, or because the were able to obtain seats only in the institutes located in those cities (e.g. government polytechnic, government I.T.I., and government degree courses). After a lot of discussion regarding this issue, our trustees and I decided that we would not sponsor such students living and studying in other cities, except in certain very exceptional cases. This is because we are unable to monitor either their class attendance or their academic progress and, therefore, cannot properly know if the funds provided to them are being utilized properly. In these cases, we usually help such students get started in their first year of post 10th standard education, and then discontinue our direct support.

Finally, some of the children who completed 10th standard in our own school did not go on to higher studies due to factors beyond our control. This was especially true for girl students. We found that in some cases these girls' families did not want them to pursue higher studies even though C.A.F. was prepared to sponsor all the expenses involved! You are probably aware that in India this is caused by several socio-econonomic issues. Even a few boys did not go on to post 10th standard studies due to being prevented by their relatives, or lack of interest, or lack of capacity for higher studies.

The matter can be a complicated one Sandeep and many various factors and considerations are involved in answering your questions as fully and accurately as possible. A person has to be actually involved in hands-on social work to understand and realize all the issues comprehensively. I have tried to answer, however, to the best of my ability based on both personal knowledge of and experience in the matters. We welcome all Asha representatives to visit us personally and speak directly with both the staff and children regarding all such matters. That would go a long way to a complete understanding of these matters.

Here in our organisation, everything is going on very well. All the children are healthy, happy, and studying well. The Intermediate exams are over, and the 10th standard exams are going on. The 1st to 9th standard exams will be starting soon and will be completed by April 22nd. The Senior Inter students are now preparing for their EAMCET exams. After their exams, some of the 10th standard graduates will be writing the Polytechnic Entrance exams, while other are planning to go into either Junior Intermediate or I.T.I.

That's all for now. We thank Asha For Education very much for the very kind and generous continuing support of our social service activities for the poor and needy children of India. I hope that this letter finds the entire Asha team in the very best of health and happiness. We very much look forward to interacting with and hopefully even meeting Satheesh Avvaru and heartily welcome him to the A.F.E. - C.A.F. team. Please keep in touch. Have a very good day! Bye for now. Namaste.

Yours in the children's service,

Dr. A. Goswami - Founder & Director

Child Aid Foundation