



*Asha for Education*TM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Asha for Education presents Work An Hour (WAH) 2005

Eighth annual global event to raise \$250,000 and impact over 4000 underprivileged children in India

Austin, TX -- July 4, 2005 -- Asha for Education (Asha), a non-profit action group that works towards socio-economic change in India primarily through education, launches **Work An Hour (WAH) 2005**, held between July 4 and September 5 for the last seven years. WAH 2005 is an online global event where individuals symbolically work for the children of India by contributing an hour's worth or more of their annual salary towards Asha's project partners. The event begins on July 4, the American Independence Day, reaches an apex on August 15, the Indian Independence Day, and finally culminates on September 5, which is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India.

Asha's project partners chosen for WAH support have a history of working with one or more Asha chapters, and the funds are given for both infrastructure costs and operational expenses. After a stringent review process, 18 partner groups all over India have been selected to receive WAH 2005 funds. "WAH 2005 funds will help many chapters get started towards meeting fundraising targets of their projects," says WAH 2005 projects co-coordinator, Santhosh Padmanabhan. WAH is Asha's largest event and will bring together all 66 Asha chapters, and more than 1,000 volunteers and many more supporters across the globe, to cumulatively raise over \$250,000 to support over 4000 children in India this year. In 2004, Asha raised more than \$164,000 to support five partner groups through WAH 2004. Says WAH 2005 co-coordinator, Sanjeev Ranganathan, "From developing meaningful curriculum, supporting a school for the blind and working with government schools to improve the quality of education, WAH 2005 truly represents the diversity of Asha and the many approaches of working towards socio-economic change through education."

Asha is committed to empowering underprivileged women and children in India by enabling them access to education, health care, social justice, and equal opportunity in their daily lives. Work An Hour 2005 promises to help Asha achieve that goal through close collaboration with the chosen project partners. Asha for Education has a simplified and secure online donation process for online credit card and check payments. The WAH website www.workanhour.com provides a user-friendly interface for online donations and provides detailed project information.

About Asha for Education

Asha for Education is a non-profit, non-partisan, secular organization, committed to improving the quality of education for underprivileged children in India. Founded in 1991

at the University of California, Berkeley, Asha has grown to include over 1,000 dedicated volunteers from all walks of life across the world. Over the past 14 years, Asha has collaborated with more than 416 project partners in India to disburse approximately \$5,000,000. Asha was recently awarded the top 4-star rating by Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) among all charities in the area of International Relief and Development. Asha is a zero-overhead organization and 100% of all donations go to projects in India. Asha functions with less than 2% of all funds raised as operational expenses, all of which are borne by contributions from volunteers or bank interest. Asha for Education is federally registered as a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization in the United States and also in many countries and any donation to Asha is fully tax-exempt per the country's law.

Websites: Asha for Education: www.ashanet.org; Work An Hour 2005: www.workanhour.com

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