

## TRAIL-BLAZING - CONCLUDING MONTH OF PRAYAS' 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In the concluding month of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, all the 241 Centres of Prayas are competing to present their best and to prove that the organization has truly kept pace with the changing times. Endless activities in myriad forms and colours are happening across the 09 States/UTs where Prayas operates through its full-time workforce of nearly 800 highly dedicated professionals and hundreds of volunteers who directly serve nearly 50,000 beneficiaries, the underprivileged and marginalized children, youth and women.

The entire organization is anxiously waiting for the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the Annual Event – ‘Run for Children’, this year again taking place between Nehru Park and Central Secretariat Ground on Vinay Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

At 0730 hrs. nearly 4000 to 5000 children drawn from Prayas Centres, schools and NGOs are likely to be joined by Mr. B. S. Bassi, the Commissioner of Police, Bollywood celebrities like Randeep Hooda, Adil Hussain, Richa Chaddha, Raman Prawaal and many others, besides eminent personalities, public figures, artists, civil servants and hundreds of ‘Friends of Prayas’. Like the previous year, when cine-personalities like Sanjay Dutt, our own Shatrughan Sinha, Politicians like Salman Khurshid, Ajay Maken, Defence Secretary S. K. Sharma (now CAG), Chief Secretary, Commissioner of Police, this year to lot of Prayas admirers shall be participating in the Event. The children will run and put up their creative talents on the stage and celebrate the concluding day of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with lot of fun, music, dance and food.



While the celebrations are on 9<sup>th</sup> November, the entire Jahangirpuri Prayas fraternity joined an interesting Rally from the point of Prayas origin in A-Block Jahangirpuri, where the organization was set-up in 1988 following a huge fire in the slums. Nearly 500 children and Prayas friends and beneficiaries undertook a colourful march from A-Block to EE-Block signifying the journey of the organization from the small one room tenement to the huge complex that accommodates nearly thousands beneficiaries in multiple programs every day. This largest children-based NGO complex, houses and completely look after nearly 200 homeless children, 400 youth in vocational training, hundreds of children being received and saved from crisis by child-helpline (1098), hundreds of hapless women joining programs through SHGs-micro-finance activities. The program was joined by all of them. Another highlight of the day was a community-based program organized by GRC (Gender Resource Centre)- Wazirabad where the young girls displayed their talents through song, music and dance. However, the most interesting part of this program was a ‘cat-walk’ where the smartest, the most talented and the most charming among them were crowned and rewarded by the local Councilor Sunita Choudhary, joined by the General Secretary Amod K Kanth, Members of the Prayas family and the community.



The Prayas journey has scaled new heights during this month with the opening of five major Centres of vocational training in Sikar, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Baran districts of Rajasthan under the highly prestigious partnership with the Govt. of Rajasthan (RSLDC). In a record time of 60 days, the Prayas team has been able to set-up these ‘Centres of Excellence’ beating some of the largest corporates in the country who also signed MoUs with the Govt. of Rajasthan on the same day. The project entails training of 11500 marginalized and poor youth in trades like Hospitality, Retails, Nursing, Refrigeration and AC, Couriers & Logistics, Software and Computers; the program being entirely residential with a commitment to ensure the respectable placements to the passing-out trainees.

