

We Care

Because nothing else matters!

Dear Friends & Donors of *We Care* 

2004 saw us begin the 5th year of our existence! Another year is coming to a close in our life and the gift of a new year is being handed over to us! It is time for us at We Care to express our deep gratitude to all of you for generously sharing your resources with the underprivileged and joining us in our endeavour to create a better world. We **thank you** for truly being a **person who cares**.

The generosity displayed by our friends and donors during the year 2004 has been very encouraging. Your continued financial support towards the objects of We Care has helped us to move forward with confidence and to take up projects in favour of the needy. Our newsletter giving detailed information on each of these projects will be sent to you later.

During the year 2004 we were able to reach out to over 500 children, providing for their **education**: books, uniforms, mid-day meals, etc. We have also kept our commitment to assist in the education of five girls taking up studies in **nursing**. Those who have completed their studies have expressed their immense gratitude to We Care for the assistance granted to them. 50 children from St. Paul's High School and St. Joseph's Girls High School, Belgaum now receive financial assistance towards their education every year from **John & Theresa Memorial Education Fund**. Six to eight children from St. Maryknoll High School, Barkur, Udupi, receive financial assistance towards their education from the **Velthoria & George Sequeira Memorial Education Fund**.

The year 2004 has seen a new venture begin called **Hands of Hope Programme** - for the education of 350 - 400 primary school children at St. Benedict's Higher Primary School, Kengeri, on the rural outskirts of Bangalore. The programme is supported by Hands of Hope Ltd., Ireland and monitored by their volunteers here in Bangalore.

During the year We Care also conducted a **capacity building programme** in Accountancy and Management for people working in NGO's. The programme was conducted at Sadbhavana with the assistance of the Carmelite Friars. The programme was intended as a fund raising activity as well as an outreach to assist NGO's in their work.

The year also saw the blossoming of the **Community Based Rehabilitation Programme (CBR) for persons with DISABILITY (PWD's)**. We have identified 399 persons with different types of disabilities in a small population of four municipal wards. The pwd's were guided to the Government hospital for examination and certification. Awareness programmes have been initiated in the area for all groups of people including school children, women, teachers, and the public. Many pwd's have started receiving government assistance by way of passes for trains, buses, self-employment schemes, etc.

Through the CBR programme, many PWD's have started receiving proper assistance towards their rehabilitation. During the year we have distributed wheel chairs and hearing aids to the more needy ones. We have also helped some to secure crutches and surgical correction. The pwd's were encouraged to participate in sports and games, drawing competitions, rallies, etc., conducted by the Government of Karnataka and other NGO's. Integrated camps for children (able and disabled) were conducted to provide an opportunity for the pwd's to become more socially and psychologically adept.

Reaching out to those in need of **health care** has also been a concern for us. Medical costs are rising by the day and the poor find themselves at the receiving end. We now have two funds created to assist people who need medical care: **Vida and Douglas Memorial Health Care Fund** and **Karen Maryann Pereira Memorial Lukemia/Cancer Fund**. Karen died of cancer at a very tender age of 33 years and expressed her dying wish to create a fund for the benefit of cancer patients in India. We Care feels humbled to be given this responsibility of reaching out to cancer patients.

We have taken up a new initiative, extending our network of partners, with the Prison Ministry India, to help **deserving convicted prisoners** to go on parole for 60 to 90 days. We Care will assist the families of these prisoners with the surety deposit needed to secure the parole. We hope that the parole time spent with their families will help them to get rehabilitated and eventually integrated back into society. .. set prisoners free....

During the year 2004 many other **memorial funds** were created: **Edith & John Coutinho Memorial Charity Fund**; **Dr. D Y N Murthy Memorial Fund**; **Dr Jeanette Pinto Memorial Charity Fund** (in favour of Widows); **Shirley & Maurice D'Mello Memorial Charity Fund**; **Rita Nazareth Memorial Charity Fund**; **Annama Memorial Charity Fund**. More information about these funds in our newsletter.

We Care now has a website: www.wecaretrust.org which was designed by Anupama, Conrad Colaco, Andrew & Roven Misquitha. Some parts of the website are still under construction.

Our **volunteers and friends** have been working hard towards raising funds for meeting the cost of our programmes. Various activities like conducting mini-fetes, charity-bazars, sweet making, etc. were undertaken by them during the course of the year. We gratefully acknowledge their services and support.

We are grateful to Mrs. Beatrice Noronha, Bangalore who has donated her second hand **Maruthi Van** to us. The van is extremely useful in transporting our children, persons with disabilities and goods from one place to the other.

We Care has taken on rent an **office premises** from which it carries out its administration and CBR programme. In order to render better services to the poor and to carry out activities more meaningfully, We Care purchased a property consisting of land and building (1000 sq ft) situated in the locality surrounded by the slums. The place has been christened "**PRATIKSHA NIVAS**" - **A PLACE OF HOPE**. Pratiksha Nivas has now become a centre for involving children, women and persons with disability in a more active way. We thank Missionszentrale der Franziskaner, Germany for their assistance in helping us to purchase this place.

We have many people and organizations to thank for their cooperation and participation in our programmes. Firstly, some of the **organizations who participate in our network** as partners, associates, collaborators and donors: Amici Di Raoul Follereau, Bangalore; Providence (FMM) Convent, Bangalore; Franciscan Institute Higher Primary School, Bangalore; Maria Seva Sangha, Bangalore; St. Francis Xavier Higher Primary School, Bangalore; St. Benedict's Higher Primary School, Kengeri; Premal Jyoti (FCC), Gujarat; HSBC; Bangalore Milk Dairy; Soroptomists; Hands of Hope Ltd., Ireland; Y's Men's Club, Jayanagar; Holy Cross School of Nursing, Kamagere; Bangalore Turf Club; Treda; MOB Mandya; Promise Foundation, Bangalore; Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Bangalore; Rotary Club, Peenya; Premalaya, Bangalore; Claretian Fathers, Chennai; International Women's Club, Bangalore; Directions - Printers, Bangalore; SJMCH, Bangalore; etc.

Secondly, many **individuals who participate in our network** as staff, volunteers, friends, collaborators, advisors, etc. It would be difficult to list everybody by name. We however wish to thank our office staff and CBR Team for their dedicated and committed services.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank our **Trustees** who have generously contributed and supported us with their time, energy, advice and guidance.

Involving ourselves in the CBR programme for persons with disabilities has opened our eyes to new meanings of celebrating Christmas.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS FOR ME THIS YEAR? Is it celebrating the birth of a child far away in Bethlehem? Is it celebrating the birth of a Saviour? Is it parties and cocktails? Is it sending cards and gifts to friends and family?

CHRISTMAS, FOR ME, THIS YEAR IS: Celebrating HE being born **AMONG** us! Bringing God's gift of **SALVATION** and sharing this **GIFT** with others. Sending greetings (cards) that says God Loves U.

He (who was born among us) said: I have come to bring sight to the blind; speech to the dumb; walk to the lame; hearing to the deaf; freedom to captives; salvation .. to **ALL**! Christmas for me is an invitation to join in **HIS** mission of sharing the good news with the all!

Dear friends, donors, benefactors and well-wishers, we feel confident that you will continue to encourage our work with your generous donations and support us with your prayers. We rely on your generosity and your good will to carry out programmes that benefit the poor and needy. Educating children, especially girls, is one of the most important focus of our work. We welcome and encourage each of you to take up the education of atleast one child during 2005.

We remember you in our daily prayers. We hope and pray that God Almighty may bless you and your family members in a special way during this season. We also pray that God Almighty may reward your generosity in ways that He knows best.

Once again thanking each one of you, our dear donors, volunteers and friends of We Care for joining hands with us in creating a better world - even if it is in a very small way. For those of you who celebrate the feast of Christmas, we wish you a very joy-filled season. And to all of you we wish a very grace-filled, peaceful and prosperous New Year 2005.

With best wishes,
Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM
Managing Trustee

Wishing You A
Joy-Filled Christmas
& A Prosperous New Year 2005



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Reaching out in Love & Service