

We Care

Because nothing else matters!

Dear Friends & Donors of We Care

The year 2006 has just concluded with mixed sentiments. Like other years, 2006 too has seen its share of joys and sorrows, laughter and tears. For us, 2006 was a year of challenges. We began the year with the construction of our office-cum-programme center. Constructing a building is not an easy task. But we are now at the final stages and hope to inaugurate the same by the end of February 2007. Because of lack of a proper office we rented a small premises, but in October we had to move out as the Landlord wanted to pull down the building. We are now working from a small room measuring ten feet by ten feet! The lack of place had an immediate impact on our childrens' programme, which had to be suspended. And so it was, one challenge after the other.

However, we also had a fair share of good things that happened to us. Our programme for the care of disabled is getting shape. We have been able to reach out and educate more children this year. Though your donations have dwindled in 2006, the love that God and people have for us has only grown. Our enthusiasm has not diminished and our energy to *reach out in love and service* has not been lost.

It is with these sentiments, we believe that it is time for us at We Care to remember each and every one of you with immense gratitude and appreciation. It is with your generous hands that we have been able to continue to reach out to hundreds of people who need help so desperately. You are indeed persons who **truly care**.

As in previous years, we continue to focus on two main programmes: **EDUCATION & DISABILITY**.

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE: During the academic year 2005-06 we were able to reach out to over 900 children, providing them with assistance towards their education: books, uniforms, mid-day meals, etc. The total expenditure towards education assistance in 2005-06 was **Rs.13,58,746/-**

Students from St. Paul's High School and Joseph's Girls High School, Belgaum; St. Maryknoll High School, Barkur, Udupi; St. Benedict's Higher Primary School, Bangalore; Franciscan Institute Higher Primary School, Bangalore; Basic Education for Social Transformation, Wankaner, Gujarat; and other local schools received financial assistance towards books, uniforms, tuition fees, mid-day meals, transport and other expenses. During the year we provided financial assistance to 15 nursing students studying at the Holy Cross School of Nursing, Kamagere.

The major donors towards this expenditure were: **Amici di Raoul Follereau**, Bangalore; **Hands of Hope Ltd**, Ireland, **John & Theresa D'Souza** Memorial Education Fund; **Velthoria & George Sequeira** Education Fund; **Osborne & Ella D'Lima** Memorial Education Fund and many individual donors.

Nehru Children's Club Today's children are the future of our tomorrow. **'Get organized for the better cause'** is a phrase, which motivated us to organize the children to form the "Nehru Children's Club". Under the guidance of Bhavani and Srinivas these children had regular tuition classes every Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, special programmes were conducted for them to explore and develop their talents through creative activities like singing, dramas, role-play, etc. Every Sunday, music classes were conducted for those who were interested by the OMI Brothers, Nivedanam Bangalore.

During the evening tuition classes, the children were made part of the **nutritional recovery programme**. Medical check-ups are provided at regular intervals. Nutritious food like ragi-porridge, ragi-mudde, eggs, milk, grains, pulses etc. were also served to the children.



Celebrating various cultural events and festivals helped the children to develop a broad spirit of tolerance and openness. Various events like Deepavali, Children's day, Teachers' day etc. were celebrated during the year.

The children are also encouraged to involve themselves in **social activities** like polio immunizing programmes, cleaning of the surroundings and CBR programmes.

These children look bright and cheerful. They are grateful and highly appreciative of the activities conducted for them. They acknowledge that these programmes have changed their lives for the better. They are now able to study well and feel they have the support to become someone different.

The children's programme is being supported by **AMICI** and the income from **Children's Welfare Fund**. We are grateful to Madhu and her friends for their assistance in carrying out this programme.

We Care supports a nursery class for the poor children from the local areas. We Care provides the financial support towards running of the Nursery Class while the FMM sisters look after the administration and management. In 2005-06 about 65 children received education in this nursery class. The activity is carried on with the help of Sr. Nancy, Headmistress; Mrs Meenakshi, Teacher and Mrs Thomas Rose Mary, Caretaker.

Basic Education for Social Transformation Programme : In collaboration with the Franciscan Clarist Congregation and in particular with the Sisters of the Premal Jyothi Convent, Wankaner, Gujarat, We Care has been able to educate 100 children each year in the rural areas of Gujarat. The children are selected from the nearby villages and sent to local schools. Common tuitions



Maria Kirana Creche, Bangalore; about 20 children of domestic workers in Regiguda Slum, Bangalore and about 25 children of the Nehru Children's Club. The expenses for this programme were met by **AMICI Di Raoul Follereau, the Soroptomists Project, Bangalore and your donations**. Our sincere thanks to all our collaborators and especially to Maria Seva Sangha for their assistance in carrying out some of these programmes.

and cultural activities are provided to help the children. In the year 2005-06 the total expenditure on this programme was approximately **Rs.60,000/-**

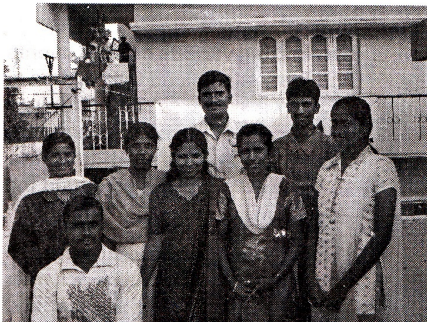
Nursing Education : In collaboration with the Holy Cross School of Nursing, Kamagere, Karnataka, We Care was able to educate fifteen young girls in the **nursing profession** during the year. In the year 2005-06 the total expenditure on this programme was approximately **Rs.1,60,000/-**

Mid-day Meals : were provided for about 115 children in two schools: Franciscan Institute of Higher Primary Education and St. Francis Xavier's Higher Primary School, Bangalore; about 100 children in

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMME (CBR) FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD'S) : The CBR programme is carried out in over 28 villages of Urban Bangalore, South Taluk. Through the door-to-door survey and information received from the local leaders and government departments, we identified 998 persons with disabilities.

Various programmes were conducted for the people with disabilities which included the World Disabled Day celebrations; awareness programmes for school children, teachers and women's groups; awareness on leprosy; formation of self-help groups for the disabled; self-employment programmes; non-formal education; social security programmes; providing aids and appliances; etc.

The following benefits were provided to persons with disability: Training of staff members 12; 17 Training programmes for general awareness covering over 3400 persons; 72 persons were issued medical certificates and train concession passes; 27 persons received government scholarships; 43 persons were issued new I.D. cards; 12 persons received home based education; 51 persons received physiotherapy; 13 persons received speech therapy; 26 persons received aids and appliances (i.e., hearing aids, crutches, calipers, etc.) and 42 persons received occupational therapy (i.e., activities for daily living skills).



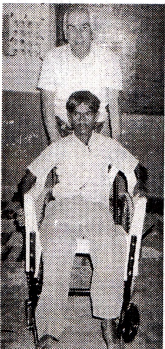
The CBR programme is carried on with the help of our well trained and motivated staff lead by our CBR Programme Coordinator, Sagayaraj. Our field staff consists of Jayamani, Amala, Muni Swami Rao, Leelavathy, Meena, Premila, Sanjay, Dharaj and James. Our office staff consists of: Srinivas (Disabled), Micheal Anthony and Anitha Joy. We are grateful to our staff for their dedicated service.



We are grateful to various NGO's, organizations, institutions: (governmental and non-governmental), for their assistance, support and encouragement towards the pwd's. Rotary Club, Peenya, Red Cross, Bangalore, Govt. Primary Health Centre, Tavarekere, Bangalore; Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital, Bangalore; Women's and Child Welfare Centre, Bangalore; Shri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore; Thirumurthy Rural Development Centre, Kanakapura; Treda, Bangalore; Police Department, Bangalore; Y's Men's Club, Jayanagar, Bangalore and OMI Fathers and Brothers, Bangalore

Our thanks also to Shri. Ramalinga Reddy, Former Minister for Primary Education, Bangalore; Mr Muniraj, Madivala Ward Councilor, Bangalore; Dr. Nagendra Prasad, Mr Jonas and Family and many others. Our thanks to our volunteers, Narsimhamurthy, Soundarraj, and many others, who have come forward to support the CBR programme.

Our CBR programme is entirely supported and financed by Amici di Raoul Follereau (Trust), Bangalore, and so our thanks to Jose M. V. Administrator, and the staff of Amici. In a special way we also thank Jayanth, Project Coordinator; Dr. Mani Mozhi, Health Coordinator, Patrick, Accountant; Lucy, Office Assitant, and Krishna.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION – CASE STORY OF MADEVA

We Care earnestly promotes inclusive education while also focusing on the disabilities of the students. Madeva, was identified with severe mental retardation in the year 2005 at Roopeagrahara village. Our CBR staff, Ms Meena was informed by Madeva's mother that he did not attend any school because of the teacher's unwillingness to accept him and also because of the school's negative and non-cooperative attitude. Thus, he lost two years of schooling before we met him. Ms Meena recognized Madeva's interest in studies and encouraged him. She keenly observed his activities and interests, and set-up an individualized educational programme. She also encouraged other teachers to do like-wise. With persuasion and determination Madeva was admitted to Sai Baba Primary School and now studies with normal children. His parents and family are very happy about his progress and are thankful to We Care for our timely intervention.



MEMORIAL and CORPUS FUNDS : We Care is grateful to many people who have donated towards Education, Health Care, and other Charity Funds. During the year two new memorial funds were set up: **Prudente and Fatima Menezes Memorial Charity Fund** and **Beatrice and Charles Noronha Memorial Charity Fund**. We also set up the **We Care Education Fund** and **We Care Building Fund**. With this we now have twenty-four Corpus and Memorial Funds. The income from these funds will be utilized to meet the expenses of various programmes.

The other Memorial and Corpus fund are: **Edith & John Coutinho Memorial Charity Fund**; **Maureen & Kevin Colaco Charity Fund**; **Dr D Y N Murthy Memorial Fund**; **Shirley & Maurice D'Mello Memorial Charity Fund**; **Annam Manikkathan Memorial Charity Fund**; **Rosario Vincent & Natalia Lobo Charity Fund**, **St. Anthony's Charity Fund**, **Leprosy Patients and Families Fund**.



ORBITUARY Our good friend and supporter, Mrs. **Cecilia Thomas** passed way in 2006. We are grateful to her husband, Mr P. M. Thomas and her sons for creating a fund in her memory for the education of girl children. The fund will be in the name of **Cecilia Thomas Memorial Education Fund**. Two girls, one studying nursing and the other doing a course in lab technician have already benefited from this fund. May her soul rest in peace!

DETAILS OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Voluntary contributions	16,85,808	26,75,286	22,32,533
Voluntary donations	6,55,285	2,85,623	1,16,100
Miscellaneous income	1,31,316	39,138	49,240
Bank Interest	3,63,413	4,26,367	5,10,006
Donations towards Memorial & Corpus Funds	5,54,250	6,68,795	4,38,398
Donations in kind	30,200	17,500	0
Education Seminars and Programmes	6,44,524	5,04,250	51,700
TOTAL INCOME	40,64,796	46,16,959	33,97,977
EXPENDITURE			
Education Assistance	12,05,546	12,96,848	13,58,746
CBR (Disability) Programme	1,60,031	3,69,561	3,97,379
Housing, Health, Women, Widows, Senior Citizens, Poor, Self-employment, etc.	2,52,107	89,398	82,034
Administrative Expenses	94,671	88,500	44,482
Land & Building	9,93,620	2,40,733	6,41,114
Vehicles & Office Equipment	1,97,399	58,380	5,52,840
Miscellaneous Expenses	87,361	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	29,90,736	21,43,420	30,76,595

The above details have been taken from our audited accounts. We are grateful to our Auditor, **Rohan Miranda, of Lawrence, Tellis Associates, Bangalore**. We also thank his staff, especially, **Uma Devi, and Kavita** for their valuable guidance and cooperation.

OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES : The total expenditure towards Other Charitable Activities (Health Care, Casual help, etc.) in 2005-06 was approximately **Rs. 82,034/-**. ♦ **Health Care:** 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 in a very difficult situation. **Your donations** and the proceeds from **Vida and Douglas Memorial Health Care Fund** are being utilized for the benefit of the sick. Care of diabetic patients is supported by **Mabel Rodricks Memorial Fund**. ♦ **Care for Cancer Patients:** We are grateful to **Geetha & Lawrence Rebello**, Bangalore who have made generous donations towards the Care of Cancer patients. The assistance is for poor patients being treated in Meherbai Tata Memorial Hospital, Jharkand, through Sr. Magedella, AC and other cancer patients. Beside this, the proceeds from **Karen Maryann Pereira Memorial Lukemia/ Cancer Fund** and **Rita Nazareth Memorial Charity Fund** will also be applied for this cause. ♦ **Care of Senior Citizens** – assistance towards monthly rations of five senior persons. ♦ **Care of those in need of Housing; Care of Prisoners; Care for the poor and Care of those in need of Self-employment** are among the other activities carried out during the year. ♦ **Care of Women and Widows** is supported by the **Women's Welfare Fund** and **Dr. Jeanette Pinto Memorial Fund**.

Our gratitude to **Celine Soans, Sr. Hilda and FMM Novices, Sr. Lily Pereira, FMM and Prison Ministry Bangalore** and many others who have given us their valuable support in carrying out these programmes.

The **VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS OF WE CARE** have been supporting us in many different ways. Many of them have also worked hard to raise funds. Various activities like conducting mini-fetes, charity-bazars, etc. were undertaken by them during the course of the year. Besides those already mentioned elsewhere, we gratefully acknowledge the services and support of Gladys D'Souza, Mildred and Jacqueline Sausman, Mary Joseph, Regina Ambrose, Nirmala Charles, Cecilia Jude, Dora D'Souza, Voilet Pais, Irene Tilak, Lily D'Souza, Jaleja, Maureen, Kevin & Keith Colaco, Mrudula Lewis, Anita Pelgrim and family, Jonas, Directions-Printers and many others. A special thanks to Vinod Nair of IBM India Ltd.

BUILDING OF OFFICE-CUM-PROGRAMME CENTRE: The construction on our building at Thavarekere, Bangalore is nearing completion. Hopefully, it will be ready for occupation by the end of February 2007. The new building will have three small halls for activities, and two rooms which will serve as offices. The estimated cost of construction will be about Rs.20 lakhs. We thank all our donors for their generous contributions towards the construction of the building. We are grateful to our Architects Anthony & Indira and our Contractor, Christopher.

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 goodwill to carry out programmes that benefit the poor and needy. Educating children, especially girls, is an important focus of our work. We welcome and encourage each one of you to take up the education of at least one child during 2007. **Educating children is participating in nation building.**

TAX BENEFITS FOR DONATIONS : All donations made for the programmes of We Care are eligible for **tax benefits under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.**

We remember all our donors, well-wishers, benefactors, staff, volunteers and supporters, in our daily prayers. We hope and pray that God Almighty may bless each one of you and your family members in a special way. We also pray that God Almighty may reward your generosity in ways that He knows best.

For it is in giving that you will receive.

CAROLINE, WE ARE PROUD OF YOU

Hi! My name is Caroline D'Souza. I am in grade 5. I am 10 years old and I love to write a lot. I am an Indo-Canadian, which means that I am of Indian origin and I live in Canada.



I have written lots and lots of short stories, but I have only published two of them. I have been writing stories since I was six years old. I have always had a big imagination and with an imagination you can do anything you want, even be rich! Writing stories makes me happy. All my stories get sold to my family members and friends as I have a big family. I have sold over 100 copies of my stories already.

All the money that I collect I am donating to a trust in Bangalore, India, called "We Care". I have just started a new fund called "**We Care 4 Children Fund**". This goes to children for their education.

I hope that you all like writing stories too, but if you don't that's ok too. Just keep using your imagination, and have fun!

Wish you all a very blessed New Year 2007!

LIFE STORIES OF MARIYAPPA, SRIDEVI AND KUTTI

Mariyappa, aged 10 years, is the eldest son and Sridevi, aged 7 years, is the eldest daughter in the family - among the five children to their parents. Both of them are suffering from **loss of hearing** since their birth. The family has migrated from Gulbarga to Bangalore for earning their livelihood. Being poor, proper medical treatment, schooling, etc. was out of their reach. Ignorance, Illiteracy and lack of awareness of their parents also added to the problems of the family. Though they were assessed and provided with hearing aids by the government medical workers, they did not know how to use them. Ms. Jayamani, our CBR staff, identified both of them and taught them how to use the hearing aids. Besides, both the children were admitted to Sai Baba School



after creating awareness in the family and among the local community. Today both, Mariyappa and Sridevi are happily studying and enjoying their childhood. Their parents have expressed their thanks to We Care project for their timely intervention and support.

DISABILITY IS NOT A SHAME : We just need to motivate and make the person accept it! We all know that some forms of disability are hidden, but we should understand

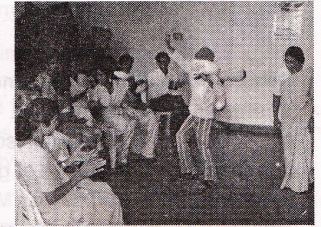
community attitudes, beliefs, myths, misconceptions and act accordingly.

Mr. Kutti lives in Subhas Nagar, Bangalore. He is aged 35. Both his hands were amputated after an electrical accident. From then onwards Mr. Kutti became shy, frustrated, and hesitant to show his hands. He would move about by covering his hands with a towel. Ms. Leela, our CBR staff, came in contact with him and studied his case. She began to counsel and motivate Mr Kutti. This was done with the help of films, pictures, and listening. Slowly she began to see a new mind-set emerge with a change in attitude. Mr Kutti accepted himself and the disability. Slowly he began to move around without covering his amputated hands. Leela achieved this feat within 1 year - a truly great achievement!

TRUSTEES

We welcome **Mr Joseph Sequeira**, Regional Manager, Bank of India, (Retd.), has joined our Board of Trustees this year. We thank Mrs Nirmala Vaz, who has retired from the Board.

I express my thanks to our **Trustees:** Jose M V, Fr. Daniel S, Angeline Sunderraj Pradhan, Celine Soans, Rochele Lobo, Gerard D'Silva and Joseph Sequeira who have generously supported us with their time, energy, advice and guidance.



With a view to reducing costs of printing and postage and to better use the current technology, we plan to send **e-newsletters** to all our friends, donors and benefactors in the future. It will be one-page information about the work undertaken by us. **To achieve this objective, kindly provide us your email address,** (to: www.wecare@rediffmail.com) stating your name mailing address and/or telephone or mobile numbers. We are sorry we could not achieve this objective in the last year.

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



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