In This Issue

Cover Story:
Winning Green - ICC Social Impact Awards 2020

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#UWBeFightsCorona

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I am humbled and proud at the progress we have made this quarter. Agility in terms of the work we deliver and sincerity are our markers of our work ethics.

Armed with these, we have been creating waves of impact at all levels, from grassroots to the international. It becomes very important for us to convey the success we have achieved through the support of our stakeholders. Bringing positive change in our communities are complex processes and not a one man’s job. Our stakeholders’ indomitable spirit and conviction in backing our organization’s work is the reason for our progress.

We believe in letting you know how far we have walked holding your hands. It is a dynamic process that is constantly evolving and continuous. The launch of this e-newsletter is our first attempt in the list of new initiatives that are lined up for this year!

United Way Bengaluru’s five pronged COVID-19 response model

The beginning of 2020 has been rough for the whole world. It is not just the COVID-19 virus that is robbing lives. It is the consequences of the pandemic that is proving to be even more disastrous. Apart from the overwhelmed healthcare system, the medical disaster has hit the economically weaker population across the globe.

Thousands are put out of jobs especially daily wage workers and migrant labourers due to the global lockdown.

To battle this, we have pitched in with intensive support to the worst affected. Our interventions can be classified into five categories – grocery kits to feed them for 21 days, hygiene kits with masks and soap, PPE kits for the hospital staff, testing kits for the patients and oxygen ventilators to aid the struggling healthcare system. If looked closely, one can see that our COVID-19 response model is meant to aid the pandemic from every crucial angle.
Our Student Mini-Grant project has won the prestigious award in the Medium Category Segment, under Clean Water and Sanitation segment at ICC Awards. Ours was shortlisted among many (about 90) entries across India shared with Indian Chamber of Commerce which is one of the oldest Industrial Bodies set up way back in 1925 in Kolkata. We were pitched against likes of Vedanta foundation, Ambuja Cements, ACC, Reliance, SBI Foundation and many other formidable players. Shortlisted among 70 entries across India, we competed alongside the likes of Vedanta foundation, Ambuja Cements, ACC, Reliance, SBI Foundation and many more. Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goal of Clean Water and Sanitation, we drove home clear messages of sustainability and community ownership in rural regions.

The project is named “Gram Shilpi” and at a high level comprises of getting the youth/students (Beneficiary of our scholarship grant) of village (Harihalli and K Hoskote) in Hasan to identify the challenges they face in their communities and come up with solutions. Collins Aerospace our CSR Partner supported this with what they call a Mini Grant usually in the range of 2-4 lacs per intervention. The team identified the challenge as water scarcity and decided to restore the open wells and Kalyanis which were on the verge of being closed. These group of students came up with a whole plan, worked on the intervention and executed the project under guidance of David Kumar Anthonappa, Projects Head at UWBe.

Another key aspect of this initiative was the Cost Vs Impact study which tilted towards us favourably. Today after 5 months of work, all these water bodies are revived and communities are using them effectively. This whole initiative is also a model to help build 21st century soft skills among our student fraternity.

For United Way Bengaluru, this also aligns with PMs’ Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.
Corporate volunteers participate in a lot of varied events. In this quarter, we had mobilized around 1495 volunteers through 22 events with 4485 man-hours in total.

At Rachenahalli Lake, we had volunteers taking part in painting the lake paths or curb stones while also creating Bokashi balls. There are balls (Bokashi is a Japanese term meaning fermented organic matter) made using bokashi powder that contains sawdust and husk, mixed with cow dung, red mud sludge from the lake, jaggery and effective microorganism (EM) solution. This mixture is then rolled into balls and dropped into the lake. The microbes in the balls will eat the sludge away. UWBe, with the help of our corporate friends, frequently make these Bokashi balls to keep the lakes clean. Apart from these, the corporate volunteers also remove weeds, clean the lake premise, create mural arts and perform mulching. A mulch is a layer of material applied to the surface of soil. This can help in conserving soil moisture, improving fertility and health of the soil, reducing weed growth and enhancing the visual appeal of the area. A mulch is usually, but not exclusively, organic in nature. In doing so, the volunteers feel responsible for keeping their waterbodies clean.

Yet another way in which we have engaged the volunteers is through the making of Health and Hygiene Kits for mothers of children at Anganwadis. This is where our activity makes a difference. It also encourages the volunteers to realize the need for a healthy and clean environment.
We conducted capacity building training on Early Childhood education for 75 Anganwadi Workers of ICDS department at the Bangalore level. The significance of training and empowering the Anganwadi teachers, and helpers through focused and well-defined capacity building programme cannot be stressed enough.

Some of the main topics covered in the training are importance of Early Stimulation, child-centred approach, developing developmentally appropriate activities for children across domains and low cost play material, concept of free play and role of Anganwadi teacher and how to set them up for different domains of development such as dramatic play corner, hand-eye coordination corner, story/literacy corner, puzzles corner and creativity corner.

We have also begun BLC infrastructure work and the distribution of Teaching Learning Material at nineteen Anganwadi centres, five in Pune and fourteen in Bangalore.

This program adds value in reaching out to maximum Anganwadi centres in different locations and also plays a crucial role in expanding the visibility of BLC as a national campaign.

**Integrating STEM learning into Schools**

Through STEM, we are stretching our outreach in

What does STEM learning mean? STEM is the coming together of four different disciplines, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The objective of STEM learning is to provide science, technical and robotics learning to government school students so as to create better cognitive environments to enhance creative learning.

We kick-started STEM learning in seven schools, out of which three are in Pune and four in Bangalore.

In doing so, we are expanding our outreach in different cities and locations in the country.

**Strong Teachers, Stronger Students**

*Capacity Building Training for Anganwadi Staff*

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1. India is practicing rainwater harvesting since 10th century. In 11th century, largest rainwater harvesting tank was created by Chola kings and it is 16 kilometer long.
2. Average roof collects 600 gallons (2,271.2 L) of water for every inch of rainfall.
3. We need minimal infrastructural changes to start harvesting rainwater.
4. Around 55,000 litres of water could be collected from a 100m² roof area and used to supply part of your household’s water needs.
5. Rainwater can be used for both drinking purposes if collected and stored properly and all domestic usages.

Did you know? Namma Bengaluru, once was a city of 1000 lakes! Among the very few lakes left in the city, some are hidden in this riddle. Can you find them?

Spot the highest number of lakes and win a surprise goodie from United Way Bengaluru!

Answers to be mailed to marcomm@uwbengaluru.org (Subject line: Riddle answers - April 2020 Issue).

Last date to submit your answers is 10 May 2020.

3 lucky winners to spot all the lakes will be announced in July’s edition.

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FREE HEALTH CAMPS FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE OLD

In an effort to address the communicable and non-communicable generic diseases of community stakeholders, five health camps were conducted in Bangalore to diagnose and provide treatment for generic health issues. A total footfall of 1150 plus stakeholders were benefitted from these health camps. This new intervention of ours, works towards the health of the community especially targeting women, children and geriatric population. Around 1141 people benefitted from the health check-up where 426 were children, 371 women, 187 senior citizens and the remaining 157, men. To ensure maximum reach with minimum cost, medical officers from KR Puram PHC were requested to be part of the camp along with paramedical staff. These basic health check-ups will also increase health awareness among people from less educated and weaker economic backgrounds.

LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION AT ANEKAL

As part of our Rural Rising initiative, we inaugurated a program at Vanakanahalli Panchayath, Anekal on January 27th 2020, where we kick-started the program by distributing livestock – goats – to the SHG women members, constructing rainwater harvesting units and performing Bhumi pooja, planting coconut trees at Anganwadis and more. We also distributed sample cheque leaves to 20 physically challenged individuals. The event was attended by the Executive Officer – Rural Development, Block Level Educational Officer/CDPO officer and other Panchayat members. The event was a success and which was concluded by the school children’s cultural performance.
National Girl Child Day was celebrated at all Anganwadi centres across the location to aware the community on the importance of girls in the society. Gender sensitization in the community and creating awareness on Girl Power.

ECE based Science exhibition was organised at all BLC Anganwadi centres across Bengaluru to develop the basic concept of science to the children which includes – light, weight, water etc. It helps in inclusion of all ECE elements in the project.

Thoughtful and sincere, Bhagya is the beating heart of our Born Learning Project. Ten years back, she stepped out into reality as a fresh graduate to discover that the Anganwadis near her home in Vijayanagar were in a terrible shape. The desire to help build these crucial spaces of learning and care then took root in her. Early childhood care and education became her top priority till date. A team player at her very core, she always keeps an eye out for everyone’s well-being. She is nothing less than the glue that holds not just her project but the whole of our office together.