

Your Dollars At Work...



Annual Report 2006
Maharashtra Foundation

(A 501(C)(3) NGO in special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)

PO Box2287, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287

www.maharashtrafoundation.org

From the President...

Dear Friends,

I have great pleasure to present this Annual Report 2006 to the members and well wishers of Maharashtra Foundation.

When the Foundation was established in 1977, its mission was to assist the poor and the needy in Maharashtra by supporting causes such as education, health, and women's empowerment. We have in the past three years expanded on the original vision. From sending the funds to the recommended NGOs, the Foundation, since the past three years, has started supporting specific causes and issues which have become dominant in the changing times. This is not in any way deviation from the basic mission of helping the poor and the needy, but an enrichment of the original mission. This approach also augurs well in the environment of increased accountability on the part of the NGOs, NGO governance and transparency, increased demand on donation dollars, and the rise in the number of professionally run India focused charity foundations.

The Foundation continues to facilitate disbursement of contributions to the NGOs recommended by them, subject to their satisfying the regulatory requirements, and also undertakes pre-identified projects by raising funds for them. During 2006 two such projects were identified and launched: Anti-Human Trafficking and Health Care and Living Assistance for Senior Citizens. Within a period of one year we have come across several potential partners who are interested in partnering with the Foundation for expanding the scope of both these projects.

On the organization front, we are making efforts to streamline the day to day operations so as to be able to pay more attention and time to communicate with the members and expand the membership. The donor database is reviewed from time to time for updated addresses, master donor and NGO database is being developed, disbursements are streamlined, and new members are inducted in the vacancies opened on the executive committee.

Some issues we still need to address are, updating the records of NGOs for 80G and FCRA documents to avoid delay in disbursements, reducing the time lag between issuing of the checks and their receipt by the NGOs, increasing the frequency of communication with the members, widening the donor base, and involving the second generation Indian-Americans in Foundation's activities,

Over all the year has been satisfying. The total contributions during the year have reached to \$ 712,929. The State of NY has trusted the Foundation with the execution of the late Prince Khedker's will of providing a health care facility at Anjanvel. This is recognition of our integrity and capability.

Dignity through empowerment best sums up the ideals we espouse. Health, education, economic empowerment and environment – all lead to the same end, personal dignity. Let's all work to make the Maharashtra Foundation a powerhouse of social and economic justice for all.

Sincerely,

Sunita Dhumale
April 21, 2007

Highlights 2006...

The Foundation successfully entered into 29th year of its operations. Following are some of the highlights of the year 2006:

Fund Raising

New Jersey, Long Island, and Washington DC:

From 2005 MF started organizing two additional annual membership gatherings in Long Island, New York and Washington DC, besides New Jersey. The response has been encouraging and the objective of mobilizing local groups is being achieved. For the past two years, these programs have been self supporting, thanks to the efforts and the hard work by the local organizers. For the second consecutive year there was a surplus from the NJ event. This helped to undertake the mass mailing of Annual Update to the MF membership outside the tri-state area and the balance amount contributed to the General Fund.

Priyanka Tope – CD project:

Priyanka Tope was a direct outcome of MF's out reach efforts. Tope family offered to send audio CD of Priyanka's songs to MF membership as complimentary gift with an appeal for voluntary contribution to Maharashtra Foundation. About 100 members responded positively and sent their contributions. The amount collected, after meeting the mailing expenses, will be used partly for MF projects and partly for the cause of children which is dear to Priyanka.

California – Marathi Play:

Prashant and Sandhya Karnik organized a program of Marathi play as a fund raiser in California. MF President, Mrs. Sunita Dhumale attended the program. After the play she met with about 60 Maharashtrian Californians to talk about MF and its activities. The funds raised through sale of tickets for the play contributed to the MF's General Fund and the donations received were allocated to recommended charities.

Out Reach

The Foundation is able to reach out to its membership in the tri-state area through the annual event program. This year a mass mailing campaign was undertaken and the 2005 annual update report, along with the pledge card, was mailed to about 400 members outside the tri state area. The response was positive, several new members were enrolled and contributions for NGOs were received.

Four new donors came into MF fold with long term interest and intent of contributing substantial amounts to causes such as education and children health.

Visits to Projects in India:

The President, Mrs. Sunita Dhumale and Sunanda Mane, Member Disbursement Committee visited several projects during their trips to India in 2006. They met with the NGO representatives, project beneficiaries as well as some new NGOs and activists:

Keshav Gore Trust, Mumbai;
Mandlik Trust, Mumbai;
CASP, Mumbai;
Nari Samata Manch, Pune;
Maval Mahila Mandal, Pune;
MAVA, Mumbai;
Karnataka Health Institute, Ghatabrapha;
Doorstep School, Pune and Mumbai;
One Village One Computer, Mumbai;

Vatsalya, Belapur, Mumbai;
Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Mangaon;
Pragat Shikshan Sanstha, Phaltan;
Andha Shraddha Nirmulan, Satara;
Hamal Panchayat, Pune;
LEARN, Mumbai
GMS, Mumbai;
Vishwa Setu, Mumbai.

Both of them also met with professionals in health sector in view of the forthcoming opportunity to undertake a large project in Konkan region through allocation of funds from the Khedker Estate. Some of the contacts they made are: TRIPS, Mumbai; Dr. Milind Gokhale, Dr. Geeta Bhawe, Mr. Prakash Kamble and Mr. Anish Patwardhan, and Primary Health Care Clinic, Radhanagari.

Membership Renewal / New Membership

Please become a member or renew your membership by paying the annual dues of \$20.

You can help make the Foundation stronger by becoming Life /Patrol or Benefactor members. The membership dues are:

Life Member	:	\$500
Patron Member	:	\$ 1000
Benefactor Member	:	\$ 5000

These amounts are tax deductible and contribute to the Endowment Fund of the Foundation.

You're Contacts at the Foundation

Mailing Address: PO Box 2287
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10008-2287

Telephone & Email

Contacts:	President:	Sunita Dhumale sunitadhumble@yahoo.com	203 758 2333 (Tel and Fax)
	Secretary & VP:	Arundhati Vinod vijuvinod@hotmail.com	201 568 5976
	Vice President	Satyajit Vaidya satyajitv@hotmail.com	
	Treasurer	Shaila Vidwans Shaila@vidwans.com	609 490 0171

IRS Tax Exemption ID 22-2213611

United Way Agency Code 011675

You're Dollars at Work...

During the year approximately 235 members contributed total amount of about \$ 675,296 for various human development causes. Out of this total amount approximately \$ 319,000 were disbursed during the year to FCRA approved organizations in India, about 171,000 are earmarked for future allocations by the donors and about 24,000 were contributed to General Fund.

\$319,000 were disbursed through 85 NGOs in India working for several causes across the state.

MF Project Initiatives

This was the third consecutive year of MF's choosing projects addressing specific causes. In the earlier years, Foundation had supported projects such as One Village One Computer and Barefoot Doctors. This year MF choose to take up two causes: Anti-Human Trafficking and Senior Citizens.

This year the Foundation introduced the protocol of signing a memorandum of association with the organizations receiving funds from MF. The expected outputs from the project and the budget for the project are finalized with mutual agreement and then the MOU is signed. The memorandum also delineates the terms of the association between MF and the NGO and the responsibilities of both the parties. The funds are disbursed to the NGOs in installments and the future disbursements are contingent upon satisfactory performance of the project activities in the previous term.

Anti-Human Trafficking

The Foundation launched, at the hands of well-known Marathi and Hindi Film and Stage actor, Mr. Nana Patekar, Anti-Human Trafficking initiative. Approximately \$ 50,000 were raised for this cause through generous support of MF members. MF plans to focus on this challenging and growing issue, further complicated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, for the next five years.

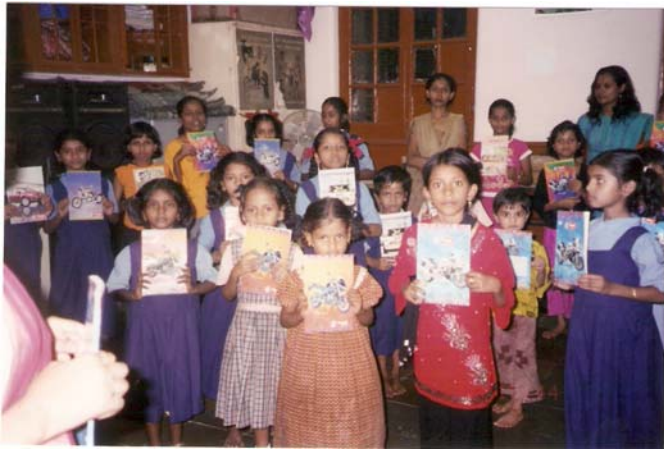
Learning from the experience of several organizations, prevention and rehabilitation was considered to be the way to go. After careful review of the project proposals received and the due diligence of the NGOS, projects of three organizations were selected for support.

Apne Aap Women's Collective, Mumbai

Apne Aap Women's Collective works in Khetwadi, red light area of Mumbai since last eight years with commitment to make a difference through unconditional support and care to the lives of marginalized destitute women in brothel based prostitution, which have been coerced into the sex industry and face abuse, violence, discrimination and exploitation for commercial sex.

The Foundation is supporting Apne Aap to continue its rehabilitation activities, vocational training and referral service. A total commitment of \$10,300 has been made for one year project. These funds will enable Apne Aap to provide services to 48 girls in the age group 3 to 15 for: nutrition supplements, regular medical check ups and vaccinations, individual and group counseling, sex education, tuition and extra coaching classes, vocational training, and training for staff members. The Foundation plans to continue its support to Apne ASAP for the next few years.

Photographs from the Projects supported by the Maharashtra Foundation



Children's Day Celebrations –Everyone received a story book!



They also learn computer



Mothers have formed a saving group for better and different future for their daughters



Girls celebrating Diwali at Apne Aap



Girls from age 3 to 16 benefit from the project and they are happy to be at the NGO





Awareness campaign in the village



Awareness program for adolescent girls and their mothers



Health camp for women



Adolescent group meeting held in January



NGO meeting held in December 2006 in Jamunala village in Chikhaldara.



Training workshop for field workers in progress

People's Institute of Rural Development (PIRD), Ahmedpur, Latur

PIRD has been working in Latur area for the past 22 years on various issues including child labor and women's development. Through its ongoing contact with the communities in Beed and Latur area, PIRD had observed that in both these district the percentage of child marriages is as high as 58% against the State average of 38%. PIRD therefore decided to take concrete steps to address this issue by undertaking awareness, training, and advocacy program. Maharashtra Foundation decided to support this project, to begin with for a period of one year.

Through the funding support of the Foundation for at least three years, PIRD will try to achieve outcomes such as: reduction of girl child marriages by 30%, increase the enrollment of 7th grade girl students by 40%, reduce the teenage pregnancies by 40%, reduce female child labor by 50%, and create a database useful for legislation and NGOs.

A total funding of \$ 12,000 was approved and the project was launched in September 2006.

Save the Children India, Mumbai

Save the Children India (STCI), Mumbai has been working in the area of empowerment of disadvantaged women and children for the past 19 years in Maharashtra. In the year 2000 STCI started working on the issue of anti-trafficking under Save our Sisters initiative. The SOS project, launched in 2002, was implemented in five vulnerable districts in Maharashtra namely Latur, Osmanabad, Snagli, Beed and Nanded in collaboration with over 100 NGO partners.

The goal of the SOS project is to develop a strong network of key stakeholders at village, block and district level, build their capacities and facilitate their empowerment in order to prevent and combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. The project activities include strengthening partnerships and linkages between NGOs, government, and community organizations, form self-help groups, provide livelihood options, mobilize government programs, provide vocational training, address crimes related to abuse of women, and increase awareness about trafficking.

After successful outcome of the SOS project in the five districts, Save the Children India approached Maharashtra Foundation for assistance to replicate the SOS project in Amaravati district, another vulnerable region for human trafficking. This one year project will be implemented in selected 10 villages from 5 blocks with the help of 10 NGO partners working at grass roots level. A total support of \$ 31,537 for one year has been approved and the project was launched in September 2006.

The achievements in the first six months are: A network of 10 NGOs has been formed, 5 self-help groups for women, adolescent girls, adolescent boys and youth have been formed, and one village vigilance committee has been formed. Pictures from the activities conducted:

Health Care and Living Assistance for Senior Citizens

Another equally important initiative, which touches lives and hearts of all those who have old age parents or relatives back home in India, was launched with the help of Nari Samata Manch. Lonely senior citizens feel the need for companions and help rather keenly. The most intense case being that of the parents of NRIs. Most of the times they do not need to be 'provided for' but need human contact that would care and look after their ordinary daily needs.

Nari Samata Manch, Pune

Nari Samata Manch is a Pune and Mumbai based well known organization which works for the cause of women empowerment. The organization works on several issues affecting the lives of poor and needy women. The organization also works for rehabilitation of the women. The most important challenge they face in this endeavor is identifying safe environment to work and training them with suitable job and life skills. The Manch has observed that there is an ever increasing demand for women with such skills from the growing number of senior citizens living on their own particularly in cities.

The Manch had submitted a three year proposal to meet the need of rehabilitation of needy women by offering them a training as “House Companions and Para-Nursing Assistants”, thereby providing the women an opportunity to stand on their feet and a safe and secure job environment. A special training curriculum covering human, house-hold, and primary health care skills.

The Foundation has agreed to extend support for one year period and a contribution of \$ 6,000 has been approved. The first batch of the trainees was started recently. The following report is self explanatory:

गृहसेविका वर्ग

घराला घरपण आणि माणसाला माणूसपण मिळणं ही आपली सर्वांची कायमचीच गरज असते. याच भूमिकेतून ज्येष्ठ नागरिकांना, आपल्याच घराला घरपण आणि आपल्याला माणुसकी मिळवून देणारा, एक गृहसेविका प्रशिक्षण वर्ग नारी समता मंचानं सुरू केला आहे.

त्या वर्गातल्या शकुंतला जोशी, सविता काशीद आणि प्रतिभा पाठक या तिघींच्या या बोलक्या प्रतिक्रिया आमची उमेद वाढवत आम्हाला असा दिलासा देताहेत की आपल्या संकल्पनेची मुळं छान रूजताहेत.

एक म्हणते गृहसेविका प्रशिक्षण हा एक कोर्स आहे असं म्हणण्यापेक्षा तो, आपल्या जीवनात प्रत्येक वेळी विचाराची सोबत करणारा साथी आहे असं मला वाटतं.

दुसरी म्हणते या वर्गात शिकता शिकता मीच बदलत चालले आहे असा माझा अनुभव आहे आणि

तिसरी म्हणते - गृहसेविका हा शब्द प्रथम मला एका कोड्यासारखाच वाटला. आता कळायला लागलं आहे की स्वयंपाकघर, आहारशास्त्र, वृद्धांकडे बघण्याची वृत्ती अशा कितीतरी नेहमीच्याच गोष्टीबाबत इथे नव्यानं काही शिकते आहे. त्यामुळे माझा आत्मविश्वास वाढतो आहे. आमच्या एकमेकीतला आणि मार्गदर्शकांबरोबरचा संवादाचा सूर एकदम जुळून गेला आहे.

या अभ्यासक्रमातली शिकवण्याची, प्रत्यक्ष अनुभवांच्या देवघेवीची भूमिका भाषा आणि पध्दती वेगळी आणि परिणामकारक आहे याचा निर्वाळाच या सहभागींच्या मनोगतातून मिळाला आहे. त्यामुळेच या प्रकल्पाची सुरुवात व्हायला, सहभागींची संख्या वाढायला थोडा वेळ लागला. तरी प्रकल्प अर्ध्याच टप्प्यावर असतानाच, त्याला धुमारे फुटायला लागल्याचा आनंद रोजच्या कामात संयोजक अनुभवत आहेत.

Financial Overview 2006 (un-audited)...

Notes:

1. The audited statements will be made available by the CPA in due course.
2. Some disbursements are pending for want of appropriate NGO documents.

MF Financial Overview 2006 (Un-audited)	
Income	Amount USD
Donations Received	675,296.00
*Other Income	75,443.00
**New Memberships	12,260.00
Total Income	762,999.00
Expenses	
Bank Charges	642.00
Professional Fees in India	1,016.00
Postage	1,862.00
Annual Event Expenses NJ,LI,Washington DC	21,430.00
Other Fund raising Expenses	2,653.00
Stationery	186.00
Admin. Assistance (Data Entry)	780.00
Internet and Website	1,158.00
Taxes	275.00
Printing	782.00
Advertising	2,619.00
Telephone	2,123.00
Other expenses	241.00
Total Operating Expenses	35,767.00
Donations Disbursed	
India	312,888.00
US	5,831.00
Total Donations Made	318,719.00
Unallocated Donations 2006	170,673.00
Pending disbursements 2006	22,404.00
Donation checks in transit	26,000.00
	219,077.00
Balance	189,436.00
* Includes General Fund contributions, Endowment Fund, Income from Annual Fund Raising and other fund raising events, Administrative charges collected, and bank interest.	
** Includes Annual memberships (36) Life memberships (3), Patron Memberships (4), and Benefactor Membership.	

Maharashtra Foundation

Frequently asked Questions

▪ **How long it takes for the Foundation to send the funds to the NGOs?**

Disbursement of funds is made once in a month. After 9/11 the rule regarding FCRA registration is strictly enforced. IF the NGO's records regarding FCRA and 80G are not available with the Foundation, it takes time to acquire them. On receipt of these documents the funds are disbursed immediately. The Foundation deducts 5% from the donations received, subject to a cap of \$500, to meet the administrative costs.

▪ **What proportion of funds raised actually reaches to the NGOs?**

Today, 95% of the funds raised reach to the NGOs. Approximately 5% of the total funds raised are spent on administrative and fund raising costs.

▪ **Tax exemption status**

The contributions to MF are exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS rules.

You can write checks in the name of Maharashtra Foundation and mail it to:

**Maharashtra Foundation,
PO Box No. 2287
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10009 – 2287**

▪ **How can I support the work of the Foundation?**

- You can support the Foundation's work by donating for various causes, projects, and also by contributing to the endowment fund.
- You can also become a member of the foundation in any of the following ways:
Benefactor: \$ 5000 and more; Patron: \$ 1000 or more; Life: \$500; Subscriber: \$20 per year.
- You can work as an area coordinator and help us build our member database by supplying names and addresses of prospective donors and members, organizing fund raising activities such as food stalls, raffles, dinners, book sales, etc.
- You can visit the projects supported by the Foundation and give them the benefit of your expertise by volunteering with them.
- If the corporation where you work has matching fund program, please fill in the prescribed form and submit it to your company. As per the rules of the corporation, your contribution to the Foundation will be matched by them.

If you need any additional information please contact us at sunitadhumble@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.maharashtrafoundation.org

Pictures of visit to tsunami Rehabilitation project supported by the Foundation in Tamil Nadu



Meeting with the tsunami affected families who received support to build their lives



Assembled catamaran at the seashore



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