



महाराष्ट्र फौंडेशन

MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

(NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)

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

<http://www.maharashtrafoundation.org>

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Project Coordinator

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Newsletter and Website

अतुल तुळशीबागवाले- Atul Tulshibagwale
MF Representative in India

Dear Friends of Maharashtra Foundation,

It gives me great pleasure to meet you through this newsletter, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your dear ones my very best wishes for Holiday Season!

In July 2009, I took over the presidency of MF from Sunita Dhumale. Thank you for showing your confidence and trust in me. I feel honored to lead this 28-year-old unique organization on all of your behalf. I shall do my best to carry forward MF's tradition of helping the needy in India and strive to achieve our mission--'Social and Economic Justice for All'.

MF has a great team of volunteers serving on its executive committee. For the past few months we have been brainstorming about some new initiatives we would like to implement as we continue all the good work done in the past. One thing we have already started implementing is meeting you regularly through a newsletter. I am delighted to inform you that MF is also sponsoring "HOMESPUN," a project documenting the contribution of Indians to America. This project is being run by the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC. As you can see we have already started implementing our new ideas!

MF faces a challenge of reaching out to more people, particularly the young – second generation. MF is interested in hearing your thoughts and feedback on our projects and new initiatives. This newsletter can be a medium to share them. I am confident that with help from all of you we will strengthen MF and carry forward our mission more vigorously.

I look forward to your active support and participation.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Arundhati Vinod
President, MF**

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Project Highlights 2008

In 2008 the Foundation continued to disburse earmarked funds as well as support MF- initiated and MF-sponsored projects. Sunanda Mane, an MF Executive Committee member, is assigned the task of coordinating with the NGOs who implement the MF sponsored projects. More information about the MF sponsored projects is below.

Anti Human Trafficking: The three projects in this area address issues of prevention and rehabilitation.

People's Institute of Rural Development (PIRD) works with adolescent girls in 30 villages in Ahmedpur Taluka near Latur. Awareness camps, village libraries and health check-ups are among the activities conducted by PIRD. They also work to prevent girls from dropping out of school.

Save the Children India also works towards prevention of human trafficking. Their strategy is to create a support network for the vulnerable population and offer training to several stakeholders in the chain. STCI works in Amravati district and has gained a remarkable reputation among the community and government agencies, including the police department.

Apne Aap, in Mumbai, works to prevent the daughters of the prostitutes from entering into their mother's profession. Located in the red light district of Mumbai, Apne Aap works with girls ranging from babies to adolescents, providing support for education, nutrition, health, and personality development.

PIRD and Apne Aap have completed a three year phase and have requested further support as they are witnessing real progress on the ground.

Swayamsiddha: As the name indicates, Swayamsiddha mentors women and youth to make the right choices about their future lives and careers by providing access to education, information, networking opportunities, and microfinance through self-help groups. This project started in 10 villages in the first phase and is now in its last phase.

Pure and Safe Drinking Water: This project is really a highlight of the year. Grant A Smile Foundation was able to quadruple MF's contribution of \$8,000 through local Rotary club and Rotary International. The extended grant enabled installation of appropriate equipment and peripherals to provide pure and safe drinking water in 50 schools, reaching approximately 10,000 students.

Rural Aging Project was another highlight of the year. Most of the efforts to address the challenges faced by the aging population have an urban focus. MF took the initiative in supporting a project aimed at rural aging. MF and Share & Care jointly support the Rural Aging project carried out by Janseva Foundation near Pune. During the year a baseline survey of senior citizens in

in nine (9) villages was completed and activities such as health checkups, eye camps, and minor surgeries were organized. From the analysis of the baseline data and health and recreational needs of the senior citizens, support group networks have been formed.

Khedker Hospital Project is MF's special status project initiated through the earmarked contribution made by the late Prince and Nenescha Khedker through their will. This cottage hospital project is taking shape at Anjanvel, in Ratnagiri district, the native place of Prince Khedker. The first phase of the project, consisting of a nursing home and outpatient department, was inaugurated in January 2009. The second phase, the construction of a 20 bed hospital, will begin soon. Mumbai based Yusuf Meherally Center, a well-known NGO working near Tara (Raigad District) is MF's partner in implementing the project. The Attorney General of New York monitors the progress of the project and receives quarterly reports from MF. Representatives of Maharashtra Foundation have visited the project site twice and maintain ongoing contact with Yusuf Meherally Center.

During the year 2008, all the above projects, and many others supported through earmarked funds, were visited by former MF President Sunita Dhumale and Executive Committee Member Sunanda Mane.

Maytrin (an Empathetic Listener), MF's US-based project, celebrates its 10th anniversary of service to the community this year. The number of calls received and appreciation from the beneficiaries, their parents, and social support organizations here in the US and India are the indicators of its success and continued need. With a small annual budget of \$ 4,000 for conducting this support line, MF is impacting several lives.

If MF members are interested to learn more about MF supported projects, please write with specific questions to: Sunanda Mane,
Email: sunanda.mane@yahoo.com.

Go Green with your next copy of MF Newsletter in Electronic Format

Please sign up for **email delivery** of future issues of the MF newsletter. Go Green and help MF in implementing cost effective communication tools and technology of today. Please send your email address to: Rajan Marathe, MF treasurer, by email to: RMARATHE@yahoo.com

Your email address will only be used by MF for its communication with you only, and will not be given to anyone else.

- MF Executive Committee

Appeal for Your Generous Support to Our Fundraising Projects for NGOs.

Dear Friends of Maharashtra Foundation,
Best Wishes for Holiday Season from the Executive Committee of Maharashtra Foundation! At this time of celebration, we would like to remind you of your past dedication and commitment to the less fortunate through Maharashtra continued support we will work together to expand our reach and benefit those less fortunate.

The new Executive Committee of Maharashtra Foundation is excited to begin its new term and be a part of service to India. Over the past few years, significant changes have been made to MF policies to align strategies with the changing demographics and financial conditions of the donors as well as the recipient groups. The new EC hopes to expand Maharashtra Foundation's reach by funding more NGOs and expanding the types of projects funded. We also hope to reach a wider group of donors, especially within the younger Marathi community.

In these trying economic times, it is sometimes difficult to continue your support of charitable institutions. However, it is especially important in these times to continue to give. NGOs, especially in developing countries such as India, also feel the pinch of the recession and rely on your support for continuing to do their good work. Because of the several constraints, MF will not be holding a fundraiser dinner this year, however, we are counting on your generous support to continue funding our recipient NGOs.

To support Maharashtra Foundation, please renew your membership, consider becoming a lifetime or patron member, or donate using the pledge card provided.

Please send checks payable to:

Maharashtra Foundation
P.O. Box 2287, Church Street Station,
New York, NY 10008

Treasurer's Note

Just as it has been often said for many opportunities, I have to say to all our donors that "Time Is Running Out Of Our Hands!" We just celebrated Diwali and Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon follow. THANKSGIVING! Yes, I mean the popular festival of our "adopted" country that so overtly reminds us all that at least a small portion of the prosperity we have earned should be shared with those who are less fortunate. And, when we do so through Maharashtra Foundation, it is not just the wealth that we share. What we truly share is the OPPORTUNITY. And here is your chance to do so. The list of our esteemed donors for 2008 is published in this news letter. Please take a minute and check the list and find your name on it. If you are on this list, send your donation for 2009, in case you have not done so far. For some reason you could not donate through Maharashtra Foundation in 2008, now is the time to do so and to get on that list.

I worked as MF treasurer for past couple of years. I must share my concern with all of you that our donations for this year so far, are far below our past performance. Also we have added only three new Life members to our membership and no new Patron or Benefactor member. Can some donors from the Maharashtra Foundation extended family come forward to become Life or Patron or Benefactor members? Your donation dollars go to the endowment fund which supports our projects in Maharashtra.

One more thing you can do is to check with your employers if they match your donations so that you can double your donation amount. Here are the names of the employers which have matched employee donation in the past: Abbott, Alliance Bernstein, Ameriprise, Andor Capital Management LLC, ARCH Chemicals Inc., AVAGO Technologies, Bank of America, Bristol Myers Squibb, C.R. Bard Foundation, Equister Chemicals, GE, IAC Foundation, IBM, Levi Strauss, Microsoft Giving Campaign, Pfizer, Qualcomm, Quest Diagnostics, UBS, Wells Fargo. It takes a few phone calls and some paperwork to accomplish this but the benefit takes us a long way.

Shaila Vidwans

Thanks to MF 2008 Donors' :

We at Maharashtra Foundation sincerely thank following donors of 2008 and we hope to get continued support from them in coming years.

Adhav, Ratnakar & Nalini	Date, Parshuram & Meena	Joshi, Anand & Suvarnalata
Adya, Surekha, Arun	Day, JB & Radhika	Joshi, Madhukar - Jyoti
Afsar Mahmood	Deodhar, Rajiv V.& Neelam	Joshi, Milind - Leena
Agharkar, Shreeram & Ratna	Deodhar, Subash - Sumitra	Joshi, Ramchandra & Madhuri
Akerkar, Anand & Shobha	Desai, Vinay - Yogini	Joshi, Ravi and Ujwala
All donors of HALO from Limaye, America's Charities, Amit and Patrali	Deshmukh, Ashok & Marion	Joshi, Ravi and Ujwala
Amrute, Sheela	Deshmukh, Nicholai S.	Joshi, Suresh & Kundbala
Andor, Capital Mgmt LLC - Nick Deshmukh	Deshmukh, Sunil - Pratibha	Joshi, Vivek
Angela S. Eftychiadis	Deshpande, Anil & Chitra	K.C. Shekhar,
Anjali A. Patil	Deshpande, Sandesh	Kaikini , Amol & Mumtaz
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Anturkar, Nitin, Anjali	Deshpande, Vijay - Lalita	Kale, Sharatkumar, Vasudha
Anupama Gupta	Devare, Sushil & Doria Abbott Lab employee giving	Kalyani C. Bapat
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Barbara Monsanto	Dongre, Arun - Mangala	Kanaskar, Shripad & Sangita
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MF 2008 Donors' Names

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Lele, Narsinha - Pratima	Patkar, Shailesh & Medha	Shobha Tagat
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Patankar, Sangita & Prashant	Foundation	Zarapkar, Sandhya
	Shenoy, Sunil - Sadhana Bidwell	

List of NGOs which received Donations from Maharashtra Foundation in 2008

The donors of Maharashtra Foundation send their donations to the charities of their choice. Generally more than 100 NGOs in Maharashtra/India receive donations from MF every year. Following is a list of NGOs that received donations in 2008. If the NGO to which you would like to send donation is not on this list, that does not mean you cannot send your donations to them. Please check with us if the charity of your choice has permission to receive funds from Maharashtra Foundation.

Abalashram, Bangalore	Jeevan Joyt Mandal	Samprac- Soc action for Manpower Creation
Adarsh Mahila Gruha Udyog, Latur	Jnana Prabodhini- Solapur Harali	Sangli Education Society Save our sisters - Anti Human Trafficking
Adharashram, Nasik	Jnana Prabodhini, Pune	SEARCH
Andhashradhha Nirmulan Samiti	Keshav Gore Smarak Trust KGST	SESA
Maharashtra	Khedker Project	Shri Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon
Anti Human Trafficking	Konkan Development Proejct	Sierra Club Foundation
Apala Ghar- Rashtre Seva Dal	Kushtharog Niwaran Samiti	SOFOSH
Apne Aap	Lata Mangeshkar Medical Foundation	SRUTI
Arnala Health Trust	Lions Comprehensive Eyecare Foundation	Stree Mukti Sanghatana
Babasaheb Navrange Anath- Balakashram	Maharogi Sewa Samiti- Warora	Students Welfare Association, Pune
Barister Nath Pai Sevaangan, Malvan	Maher	Study of Rural aging in Maharashtra
Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra	Mahila Sewa Mandal	Suhrud Mandal
Blind Relief Association The	Manavya Kotwalwadi Trust	Swadhar
Central Society for the Education of the Deaf The	Matru Sewa Sangh - Hinganghat	Swayamsidhha
Child Sponsorships	Matrumandir	The Bridge Public Charitable Trust
CKP Education Society - Dadar Mumbai	Maval Mahila Mandal, Pune Swamsiddha	Vanasthali
Community Aid & Sponsorship Program	Medical Care Center Trust	Vanasthali Rural Development Corporation
CASP	MF India	Vanavasi Kalyan Kendra
Deekshit India Project	Muktangan Mitra	Vanchit Vikas
Devi Ahalya Bai Smarak Samiti	Narayan Ashram	Vasundhara Public Charitable Trust
District Probation & After Care, Kolhapur	Nari Samta Manch	Vatsalya Trust
District Probation and Aftercare Association - Ratnagiri	Nihar	Vidyarthi Sahayak Sangh
Goa Hindu Association	PIRD	Vijay Shikshan Sanstha
Grant a smile foundation Pure and Safe Drinking Water	Pragat Shikshan Sanstha	Vivekanand Kendra Kanyakumari
Halo Medical Foundation	Prevention Of Child Marriages	Vivekanand Kendra, Tamil Nadu
Health Care and Living Assistance for Senior Citizen	Punarvas Education Society	Yusuf Meherally Centre
Hingane Stree Shikshan Sanstha	Rehabilitation of sex-workers' children in Mumbai	
Indore Cancer Foundation charitable trust	S.M.M. Eye Welfare Charitable Trust	
Jagruti Seva Sanstha	Sadhana Village	
Janaseva Foundation	Sakal India Foundation	
Janaseva Foundation General		
Janvikas Pratishtan		

Maharashtra Foundation Pledge Card																																														
Donor Details: Name(s): _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____		Donation Details: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A. Membership& Other</th> <th>Amount Per Number</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Total= Amt * Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Benefactor</td> <td>\$5,000.00</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patron</td> <td>\$1,000.00</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life</td> <td>\$ 500.00</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>\$ 20.00</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Sponsorship</td> <td>\$ 100.00</td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Funds</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>B. Projects of the Year</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Anti Human Trafficking</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Study of Rural Aging in Maharashtra</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Swayamsiddha</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>C. Recommended Organization (Name and Address)</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>D. Amount not allocated: \$ _____</p> <p>Total Amount (A+B+C+ D): \$ _____</p> <p><i>Over 90% of your tax-deductible donations reach India.</i></p>			A. Membership& Other	Amount Per Number	Number	Total= Amt * Number	Benefactor	\$5,000.00		\$	Patron	\$1,000.00		\$	Life	\$ 500.00		\$	Annual	\$ 20.00		\$	Child Sponsorship	\$ 100.00		\$				\$	General Funds			\$	1. Anti Human Trafficking	\$	2. Study of Rural Aging in Maharashtra	\$	3. Swayamsiddha	\$	1.	\$	2.	\$
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2.	\$																																													

▼ People's Institute of Rural Development (PIRD) : Women's Career Development Activities



▼ Pure & Safe Drinking Water Project



▼ 'Apne Aap' : Wax Candles, Chalk making Training Workshop



▼ 'Apne Aap' Project: TilGul Celebration



'Apne Aap' Project: English Reading, Understanding ▼



Channel that Energy!

It is quite often the case with expat Indians, that over social gatherings, email groups, facebook, twitter, and even the dinner table that passions run high about what is wrong with a certain event or thing regarding India. Friends have a good time channeling their attention and intellect in a selfless direction far from the daily grind.

However, at the end of such debates and discussions, a feeling of emptiness and / or futility often follows. It is easy to forget it and get on with the routine, but I am sure that somewhere it adds to a feeling of helplessness in life. Here are a few constructive suggestions.

What I'm outlining below is a simple process by which you may be able to feel better the next time you do get into such a situation. Of course, these are merely suggestions based on personal experience so they may or may not work for you, but at the very least, it'll get you thinking about the topic! At least in my case, it has meant a lot to have certain things to focus on, so that I can be more composed about everything else that I might be exposed to.

I have kind of followed this path when I was an expat, but probably have meandered around a bit. The net result will, I think, be the same with the recipe below:

1. Discover Your Passion

Among all these India-related discussions, what interests you the most? What kindles your fire? What keeps you awake at night when you start thinking about it?

There may be a lot of discussions you get pulled into. You may hear about a lot of different things on radio or TV or from friends. Some may be mildly interesting to you, some others may be fascinating. Sometimes what really fires you up temporarily may not be what stays in your mind. So it's generally a good idea to give it time. Calendar time as well as mindshare. Let it sink in, until in your deepest of thoughts and even in your most relaxed moments too you know that these are the two or three things that you really care about. It could be anything: Sports, religion, culture, language, poverty, population, traffic, environment, food or for that matter education! It doesn't matter, as long as you think you will feel better when you get more involved in it. It's all about the journey, since this is not really your career we're talking about. In my case, I felt I was the most passionate about two topics:

Marathi language and classical Indian culture.

2. Issues Please

So, once you've settled down on one or two topics, you can research it a bit - maybe give yourself some ammo for the next heated debate that you are going to be in. It's a great idea to discuss this with friends and family, since you feel so passionately about it, you might find out for yourself from the debates how right or wrong you are. Somewhere along the way you will know the few issues that you can do something about.

3. Help the Cause

Now that you have the specific objectives, and perhaps know people who are working roughly towards the same cause, you can make donations, spend time, bring some useful goodies on your next trip back to India. Many US-based charities allow you to make "earmarked" donations that are specific to a cause, and you might get a tax-break on them too (if the organization receiving the donation is an eligible organization). Because you have zeroed in on a certain charity or cause after doing a lot of research, the feeling that you are impulsively throwing away money will likely not be there.

This overall journey has been, in my case, fruitful, enriching and also helped me overcome frustrations I had otherwise felt when anything prompted me to think about various aspects of India. It will most likely give you a sense that you are utilizing your spare time in a more meaningful way and who knows, you might see the fruits of your work sooner than you think!

Atul Tulshibagwale, Pune

▼ MF Project: Save the Children / 'Anti Human Trafficing



Volunteering Experience at HALO

Meghana Limaye spent August 2008-August 2009 volunteering at HALO Medical Foundation, an organization supported by Maharashtra Foundation.

Her shy smile and soft voice belied the strength Lakshmi Tai actually had within. Behind the colorful sari and traditional jewelry lay a fearless woman with an incredible ability to win others over to her side. “This is going to be a complicated delivery,” Lakshmi Tai said to the girl in front of her, a recently-married teenager. “Your blood pressure has increased and your feet are swollen. You must go to the hospital to get examined.” The girls’ mother-in-law looked on impassively. “We will think about it,” she said. As Lakshmi Tai and I left the village home, I was scared for the girls’ future. “Don’t worry,” Lakshmi Tai said, seeing my anxious expression. “I will meet them again tomorrow and convince them. I won’t let her deliver the baby in the village.” Two days later I was happily surprised to see Lakshmi Tai, the pregnant girl and her mother-in-law all in the hospital for a check up with the obstetrician. Without being a doctor, Lakshmi Tai had saved both the mother’s and the baby’s life.

Lakshmi Tai is a community health worker from HALO Medical Foundation (HMF), a nonprofit in rural Maharashtra where I volunteered for one year. I received this opportunity through Indicorps, a grassroots development and leadership program for people of Indian origin. Through this fellowship program, twenty-one young people traveled to India - our motherland – to work with Indian nonprofits, connect to our roots, and be the change we wished to see in the world.

My project for the year was to improve the training program for HMF’s community health workers and

expand the scope of their work. Over the course of the year, the health workers became my friends and family - a set of mothers, sisters, and aunts in a place far from home. I lived at their houses and ate with them, laughed with them, and cried with them.

I learned about the incredible difficulties they faced in their families and villages while trying to improve health and empower women. I was inspired by their commitment and dedication to their work and to improving their communities. Lakshmi Tai, for example, was married at age nine and unable to complete school because she was expected to deliver her first child during the exams. Despite her alcoholic husband and being the sole supporter of her three children, she works tirelessly to improve health in her village. As a Bharat Vaidya, or ‘caretaker of India’, she takes on her many responsibilities with courage and grace.

Each day, I was inspired and humbled by what these women do and the work that HALO Medical Foundation continues to do in the area.

▼ Nagini Surwase (right), a Bharat Vaidya, with a woman from her self-help group and their ‘Sevaiya machine’



To say that this year was the most meaningful experience of my life is an understatement. I learned more about India, development work, and myself, than I had ever expected and I hope to continue working on development and healthcare in the future.



▲ Meghana (left) with Indubai Kabade, a ‘Bharat Vaidya’

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