



REaD

Newsletter

Spring 2013
Issue 3



REaD Foundation is a Non-profit Organization Registered in India and USA

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RK College: Recognition of Intermediate Arts Program ...

We are delighted to announce that the Uttar Pradesh Education Board Finally Recognized the Intermediate Arts Education at RK College, Tewaripur, in May 2012

RK Girls College started offering Intermediate Arts classes to the community students, specially girls, in 2007. These students were studying here but had to appear for the Board examinations through other colleges, because the application for recognition of Intermediate curriculum was waiting approval of the UP Board of Education.

The approval process involves approval of the required building facilities, teaching staff and administrative support for the requested curriculum by the local District Inspector of Schools (DIOS) in Fatehpur District Office. The building facilities requirements included installation of adequate safety, security & fire control equipment, which took time and significant effort, as this was being done for the first time. After our continued efforts, the inspection by the DIOS was finally conducted and the Board approval was received in 2012.



Inter Arts Students at RK College

With the formal recognition, the enrollment in Inter Arts increased significantly, as was expected. The students will now take the final exams at RK College, avoiding painful travel to distant colleges.

Our next step is to add Intermediate Science curriculum and start preparations to meet the requirements related to classrooms, labs, offices and staff etc. Efforts are underway in this direction and we hope that they will be completed during 2013. If things go as planned, we can consider applying for grants to obtain the needed support for the Intermediate Science Program.

Free Uniforms & Study Material Distributed

College Principal
Praveen Kumar
distributing uniforms

Last year school uniforms were distributed to ninety students, who could not afford them. 200 students were given 2 pens, 1 geometry box and 1 notebook.

School Manager
Jagdish Singh
distributing uniforms



Staff Supporting Inter Arts Program

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Eighty Cataract Surgeries in Hamirpur Eye Camp...

REaD Hamirpur organized an Eye camp at Village **Chheri Basayak** on 13 Aug. 2012. Camp was supported by **Sadguru seva trust Chitrakoot's** eye specialist team and volunteers of **Bharat Uday Mission**. This covered the area with population about 50,000 (10-12 villages were touched). From 400 patients examined for their eye problems, about 100 patients were provided eye glasses and 80 were detected with the problem of eye cataract. These patients were immediately taken to Chitrakoot for surgery at **Sadguru seva** hospital under supervision of Two REaD volunteers.

Mr. Manoj Yadav from Sadguru Seva Trust Chitrakoot provided a great helping hand. **Mr. Vijay Pandey** president of **Azad Farmers club Hamirpur** played a key role in organizing the camp. Headmaster of local village school, **Mr. Ram Dulare Yadav** and many students volunteered. A great spirit for service was observed during the camp.

Patients were transported by **Sadguru seva** trust vehicle to their eye hospital. All the surgeries were successfully performed at **Sadguru Eye Hospital, Chitrakoot**. **Mr. Rakesh Pal** with another volunteer assisted all the patients and brought them back to their home. All these patients were operated for eye cataract free of charge. This program was coordinated by **Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak**, the North India Program Director of REaD Foundation.



Eye Doctor examining cataract patient

Organic Farmers' Training In Hamirpur...

REaD learning Center Hamirpur (UP) initiated sustainable Agriculture programs by organizing a 3-days Organic farmer's Training and workshop during (28-30) July 2012.

REaD Hamirpur Learning Center is dedicatedly working towards community development in Hamirpur, UP. In this training program, scientist and experts came from all over India to provide a practical hand on organic farming methods to farmers. This program was headed by **Dr. Bharatendu Prakash** (an ex-IITian and North India secretary of **Organic Farmers Association of India**) and about a dozen of scientists and experienced organic farmers including **Dr. Preeti Joshi** (bio-composting expert from Wardha, Maharashtra), **Dr. Ramashrya Mishra** (Agihotra: The Homa farming expert from Kanpur University), **Mr. Chhatrapal Pateriya** (an experience organic farmer from MP), **Mr. Prem Narayan Mishra** (President awardee organic farmer from MP). Also, some guest

farmers from Kanpur, Banda, and MP joined for some sessions. It was well attended by local and regional farmers ranging from 50 to 150 with equal participation by women. In these three days, in addition to general topics on health of soil, adverse effects of chemical farming on human and environment, special practical sessions on compost making, food processing, packaging and marketing. Also tutorials on organic farming certification were conducted.

This was a first of its kind training conducted in the Hamirpur region. The outreach of REaD foundation in Hamirpur district of UP has significantly increased. Overall, it was greatly applauded program by REaD Hamirpur, UP. This program was coordinated by **Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak** and **Dr. Sheel Thakur** from REaD Foundation.



Left
Dr Preeti Chaudhari demonstrating preparation of liquid bio fertilizer from cow dung & urine



Right
A scene from REaD Hamirpur's Organic farmers' training program during July (28-30), 2012

REaD Environmental Sustainability Program ...



As a part of its Mission for environmental protection, **REaD Hamirpur Learning Center** organized a tree plantation drive on 14th Aug. 2012 in the village **Ruripara's** waste land, which is being revived by

Bharat Uday Gurukul, Hamirpur, UP. **Bharat Uday Gurukul** is a partner with **REaD** in Hamirpur Learning center's vocational training programs.

REaD Hamirpur took a lead for planting 5,000 trees including Neem, Banyan, Peepal, Amla, Mango, Jamun, Bamboo, Cranberry, Harad, Baheda, Plums, Lemon, Kaitha etc. One-day *shramdan* was organized by **REaD Hamirpur Learning Center** at village Ruripara on 14th Aug. 2012, where more than 200 volunteers including local village students, teachers, villagers, Hamirpur district administrative officers from Kanpur, Gwalior, and Delhi participated.

During this event, **REaD** Learning center also organized a lecture by Hamirpur district husbandry scientist & officer **Dr. V.K. Rai** on health safety of milking animals during rainy season, which was well attended by villagers. An Honor Lunch for volunteers was organized by **REaD** Hamirpur. It was a very motivating and inspiring event organized by **REaD Foundation**.

REaD Foundation provided all the planting material and planned the event so that volunteers could perform the task without much inconvenience. This event was appreciated by volunteers and they showed their enthusiasm to plant more trees in the monsoon season next year.

This program was also supported by **Tree Host Mission (THM)**. **THM** is a tree plantation promoting concept for city dwellers to plant trees in the rural areas, thus, connecting

urban rural people for environmental benefits. The tree planted by them will be taken care and protected by rural people life. The first president of **THM**, **Mr. Anand Acharya** participated in this one day plantation activity. **Mr. Anand Acharya**, **Mrs. Gayathri Chaturvedi**, **Mr. Umesh** and **Madhuri Chaturvedi**, **Mr. suraj Chaturvedi**, **Dr. Kamal Kishore sharma**, **Dr. Yogesh Sonavane**, **Indira Mishra** and **Chandra Kunwar Pathak** planted the trees in memories of their loved ones, under the scheme of **THM**. **Mrs. Gayathri Chaturvedi** supported the plantation of 7 banyan trees in the **Bharat Uday Gurukul** and **REaD Learning Center Hamirpur** campus as a part of sustainable development and environment protect. It was a generous gesture by her.

REaD thanks all the volunteers and the guests, who participated in the event and invites them to join again in our future environmental sustainability programs.



Volunteer Children with Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak Planting Trees



REaD Coordinator, Vijay Pandey & Volunteer Group Planting Banyan Trees



Dr. Arjun Raja Memorial Scholarship Fund



Arjun Raja, Doc. Eng. Sc.
 29 Dec. 1938 - 16 July, 2010
 Father: Ramrao Raja Kalyankari
 Mother: Chandrabai Raja
 Shyam Sadan
 85 Marine drive, F Road,
 Mumbai, 400 002

The family and friends of **Dr. Arjun Raja** in India and USA are working with **REaD Foundation** to establish a Scholarship Fund to celebration his life & accomplishments.

Arjun was born in **Raichur, India** on **December 29, 1938**, in a Hindu Kshatriya family and had 6 brothers and 4 sisters. He completed 7th grade from **St. Mary's Convent School** before moving to **Hamdard High School** to matriculate at an early age of twelve. His college education was completed at **Osmania University** in Hyderabad, where he received **M.Sc.** degree in Geology in 1956. Some of his close college friends remember his serious interest in studies and eagerness to participate in the games at the same time. He worked at **Bhabha Atomic Research Center,**

Mumbai, in atomic minerals division for a year before going abroad to pursue higher studies.

Arjun joined the **School of Mining Engineering at Columbia University** in **1963**. After completing Master's Degree in mining, he continued research under **Prof. Nathaniel Arbiter** and received his **Doctorate** in **July 1970**.. He worked in **American Cynamid** as a mineral process engineer and later joined **ASARCO** before returning to India in 1973.. His friends Vinyak, Dinesh, Manoharan, Raju, Sheel, Balu and others were a close group and remember him fondly.. In India, he led his family business - **Pacific Chemicals** - developing, manufacturing and marketing utility chemicals.

This Memorial Scholarship Fund will be managed by a small team of the donors -- his friends and family members. They will setup the scholarships and outline the guidelines for awarding them, including the eligibility criteria, selection process, monitoring progress, renewal etc for administering by REaD Foundation. They will also maintain contact with REaD to ensure timely awards and progress reporting.



Baal-Vikas and REaD Foundations help bright, underprivileged students succeed in their education, careers and professional lives. They are offering joint scholarships and financial assistance to deserving candidates in India. Download the applications from their web sites or email scholarships@readfdn.org



Mr. K.P. Thaker Memorial Scholarship



Mr. Kanaiyalal P Thaker, also known as Kanubhai, late Joint Secretary of Gujarat State, Department of Finance, was born in Umreth, Kaira District, Gujarat on September 26, 1927. He had his primary education in Umreth and college degree from Mumbai, during time when he had to study under street lights. He started his working career in

teaching and later joined state government. He continued to tutor so that he could provide for his family living in Borivali East. During movement of Maha-Gujarat he moved to Gujarat, probably the best move of his life.

After coming to Gujarat, life sort of stabilized and he dedicated rest of his life in serving for Gujarat. He started as a clerk and climbed up the ladder, all the way to Joint Secretary. His deep interest in philosophy brought him

close to Shri Aurobindo. He was soft at heart, very honest, open and outspoken with everyone. He was known for his honesty in living and thinking and a respect for truthfulness. Religion to him was not about Christianity, Islam or Hinduism, to him it was all about Humanity.

We, the children of Shri Kanaiyalal Pranlal Thaker, namely Daksha, Bharat, Jayant and Shobhana (Rita), along with our Mom Smt. Hasumati K Thaker, are proud to establish a Scholarship Endowment Fund in celebration of his life and accomplishments.

This Memorial Scholarship Fund will be managed by a small team of the donors -- his family members and REaD representatives. They will setup the scholarships and outline the guidelines for awarding them, including the eligibility criteria, selection process, monitoring progress, renewal etc for administration by REaD Foundation. They will also maintain contact with REaD to ensure timely awards and progress reporting.

Study Abroad Program: 2012 Progress Report

Award Winning Director & REaD Present Living River Film



Vinit Parmar, director of the acclaimed documentary, *Living River*, and **Adam McKinstrie**, **Exec Director, REaD Foundation**, presented the film at RPI's Sustainability Film Series in November 2012, in Troy, NY.

The event was organized by REaD and **Prof. Kim Fortun** of RPI to help promote the planned joint class on India between RPI and The Sage Colleges which culminates in a 3 week cultural and education immersion experience through India. A preliminary itinerary, which will be handled by REaD, is shown below.

Duration	Destination
3 Days	Mumbai
5 Days	Bangalore
3 Days	Mysore
3 Days	Bhopal
2 Days	Agra
2 Days	Delhi
2 Days	Jaipur

In an effort to promote interest in India among the two institutions, REaD sponsored **Vinit** to screen *Living River* and his most recent short-

film, *Quest for Energy* which he hopes to expand into a full documentary. In addition to showing the films, **Vinit** also fielded questions from an audience of 100+ on sustainability efforts in India and how the country's culture and politics impact the success of such efforts.

REaD plans to use it's extensive network of contacts in India to provide similar interactive educational experiences as students visit the destinations on their trip. REaD continues to work with **RPI and The Sage Colleges** to finalize details on the proposed study abroad program.

Vinit Parmar is a film professor at **Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, NY** and is involved with the school's international studies program. **Vinit** has been a valuable resource to REaD as the foundation looks to establish partnerships with educational institutions to help increase interest in India.

If you would like to learn more about **Vinit's** film, *Living River*, please visit: www.livingriverfilm.com. Should you wish to learn more about **Vinit's** most recent undertaking and how you can help, please contact **Adam McKinstrie** at info@readfdn.org.

REaD Organizes NYU India Trek 2013 ...

REaD Foundation was, once again, privileged to organize **India Trek 2013** for the members of South Asian Business Association at Stern (**SABAS**) of New York University during the Spring Break. This is our **Golden Triangle Plus** Tour.

This 9-days trek during March (16-24), covered the **Golden Triangle** -- Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, in the first 5 days. **Ashrae Sahni** and **Aniruddha Barua**, who carefully planned the itinerary and selected restaurants for dining, lead the enthusiastic group of twenty six, which arrived in New Delhi on March 16. They were greeted by **REaD tour escorts** and given a warm **Welcome Reception** at Taj Ambassador Hotel. During these 5 days, the group visited many monuments which stand as silent reminders of the region's ancient legacy including the famous **Taj Mahal** and enjoyed ethnic and international cuisine as well.

The group flew to **Goa** and relaxed the next two days on fabulous beaches visiting bars and restaurants and spent the remaining 2 days in **Mumbai** -- the financial center of India, including city tours at both destinations.

The carefully picked dinners in popular **Pindi Restaurant** in **New Delhi**, Rajasthani delights at ethnic village of **Chokhi Dhani in Jaipur**, sea food bonanza at **Souza Lobo** in **Goa** and the Alumni Dinner in Mumbai, will also keep reminding the group about this tour of **Incredible India**.



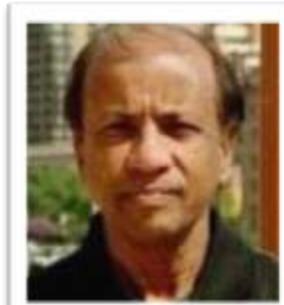
Alumni Team Starts Music Classes in Mumbai . . .



Late Kewal Talwar



Ramniwas Agrawal



Sunder Singh Thakur

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination...."
-- Plato

An Alumni Team of **Marwari Commercial High School** in Mumbai, which graduated in 1954, is working with REaD to start music classes at their school. The team includes **Ramniwas Agarwal**, **Kewal Krishna Talwar** and **Sunder Singh Thakur**. They lived in the same neighborhood and hung together after school, keeping in touch as time passed and life progressed. **Ramniwas** became an Advocate, now practicing in Calcutta, **Kewal** moved to UK as a Chemical Engineer and **Sunder** settled in New York after completing Doctorate in Engineering at Columbia University; where friends knew him by his nickname 'Sheel'.

Sunder participated in all the extracurricular activities available at the school -- cricket, few indoor games and poetry competitions. He strongly feels that he would have learnt other things if they were available, which would have enriched his life. In addition to learning, math and science, which made him an engineer, he would have tried his hands on few musical instruments adding other dimension to his life.

Albert Einstein was once asked how he discovered the Theory of Relativity. He said *"I didn't discover it. I was listening to music and the whole thing dropped in"*. This is why **Sunder** has convinced his class team mates to support this initiative.

The Team will also assist the **School Principal**, the **President of Alumni Club Mr. Premprakash Gupta** and other members of the Alumni Committee, in contacting remaining members of their class, to seek additional funding for this initiative. The startup funding of rupees 1 lakh has been provided this year

to the Alumni Committee to engage a music teacher and to buy necessary instruments. A meeting was held with Alumni Committee members, the Principal and the School Committee Secretary to start the proposed music classes, and, we hope that they will start with the beginning of 2013 academic year.



It is incredibly sad that our beloved friend **Kewal Talwar** passed away on March 10, 2013 at his residence in Bardford, UK. His final days were spent surrounded by family and friends while battling a terminal illness.

Kewal was a positive person and would not want us to be sad today. If he was here he would tell us to cheer up, smile and remember all the great times we shared. I cannot put into words how much we will miss him.

Today, we dedicate these music classes in his memory, to celebrate his life and remember all the things we shared and what wonderful times we had in Junior & High school together at Marwari Commercial. Even though **Kewal** may be gone, his memory will live on with us forever.

REaD Plans to Recruit Office Staff in Bangalore . . .

REaD Foundation, since its establishment in 2002, has been managed by volunteers in India and USA. After its registration in USA, with the added support of the non-resident Indians, its activities have been increasing rapidly.

To sustain the growth and strengthen the organization, REaD plans to hire an office manager with some work experience in managing NGO activities. S/he will be supported by a part-time office assistant. The search has started and we hope to have the office operational by the 2nd quarter of 2013.

The primary responsibilities of the office manager will include i) interface with the central & local government to meet statutory requirements ii) publishing the Newsletter and maintaining the website iii) publicity & promotion iv) applying for grants & fund raising and v) an active public relations & media interface.

REaD is also looking for an individual in Bangalore with interest and experience in community services, who can provide guidance to the office staff and serve on its Board of Trustees.



REaD Foundation

INDIA

B-132, Century Park Apts
Richmond Road, Bangalore
560025, Karnataka, INDIA
Phone: 91-80-2532-1202



USA

30 Lake Street #2B
White Plains, NY10603
Phone 1-914-428-0960
Mobile: 1-914-805-1059



email: contact@readfn.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.readfn.org

Meet Our New REaD (US) Treasurer ...



Jayant Thaker

Jayant K Thaker, REaD (US) Treasurer

PO Box 72
White Plain,
NY10602-0072

Jayant Thaker, affectionately known as Jay, was born in Umreth, India. He was an honors student throughout his school years at Swastik Shishuvihar in Ahmedabad, India. He graduated in 1978 from L M College of Pharmacy (LMCP), Gujarat University, India with BS in Pharmacy. Right after graduation, he worked for several years for various Pharma Companies as Medical Representative. In 1981 he immigrated to USA, where he studied further and became a Registered Pharmacist.

Today, Jay is a hard working professional and a proud owner and operator of several businesses in Tri-state area mainly in healthcare industry. Using his experience

and knowledge in Specialty Pharmacy, Jay started his own Independent Home Infusion Pharmacy along with full line Home Healthcare Supplies and Medical Equipment business.

Jay is a strong leader among his peers and has served once as a President of Indo-American Pharmacists Society (IAPS), the largest organization representing ethnic group of Pharmacists from India. As a longtime member, he continues to help and encourage young generation of Pharmacists who represent the future. Jay also served as Secretary of NY City Pharmacists Society (NYCPS) and is proud member of it since last 15 years.

Jay is very modest and does not like any publicity. He would rather keep doing his work that benefit others without any acknowledgment. At REaD Foundation we are proud to welcome Mr. Jay on board as our Treasurer in USA.

Contact: PO Box 72,
White Plains,
NY 10602-0072.
Rx4goodhealth@yahoo.com

Introducing REaD (India) Grants Coordinator ...



Jyoti Singh

Jyoti Singh, REaD (India) Grants Coordinator

E-201, Grand Edifice,
Hoskote, Bangalore,
562114.

Jyoti hails from Hazaribagh Jharkhand, in India. She has completed Bachelor in Commerce and Diploma in Tally software for account management. She has experience in managing accounts of a local start up in Bangalore & a nonprofit in Jharkhand.

Jyoti lives with her husband **Onkar Singh** in Bangalore, raising their eight month old lovely daughter Arya. She is interested in community affairs & social work and wants to serve the underprivileged in India working with REaD. **Onkar**, who is working for Accenture India, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, will support her in this endeavors to the extent his work schedule allows.

Her other interests include interior design, painting and experimenting with south Indian recipes. Please welcome Jyoti on board.

Contact: E-201, Grand Edifice,
Amani Doddakere, Hoskote,
Bangalore, 562114.
ijyotijyoti1@yahoo.co.in