ANNUAL REPORT

2011-2012

Summary of yearly projects and activities during the fiscal year
2011-2012
At the outset, let me welcome you. It is due to many of your efforts and donations that we were able to conclude another year with so much success. As we conclude the seventh year of Maitri’s operation, let me say how refreshing it is to pause and reflect over past accomplishments. They serve as reminders to all of us, reflecting on the struggles and highlights of our efforts during the recent past. However, we should not overlook the challenges we faced with each success. Each program’s achievements are worthwhile, but after ‘wading through the mire’, those achievements were made to feel that much more worthwhile. It was through each of our personal efforts and determination, our desire to help others have better lives, to try and make a difference to their lives, we were able to overcome challenges and achieve this past year’s results. And I hope we will be filled with the need to reach out and continue assisting these people that need our support.

As I’ve said, there has been much work done over the past year, and I wish to briefly highlight two accomplishments Maitri achieved last year. The first involves Maitri’s initiative Project Awaaz, where we work with homeless rickshaw pullers. Geared towards reaching the migrant worker population and their families, this project succeeded in affecting close to 8,000 individuals in the last year alone. Health clinics and activities combined averaged more than once per week. All this work led to our TI Project being recognized by the Delhi State Aids Control Society (DSACS), who subsequently named it a Model TI Project for HIV/AIDS. Please allow me to add my own thanks upon receiving this distinction. Your dedicated work and organization in efforts towards the migrant population is greatly appreciated.

The second success I would like to share involves our work with Project Jeevan wehre we work with the widows in Vrindavan. Since 2010, we’ve been providing 500 widows in Vrindavan with mid-day meals, health care support services, and sarees twice a year along with woolens in winters including blankets. We were limited in our ability to seek government benefits for these widows. But in April 2011, we were happy to receive management of one of the ashrams, Chitanya Vihar Part II, from the U.P government. This added responsibility gave Maitri the opportunity to ensure the widow mothers receive all the benefits which the state Govt and Govt of India offers through various schemes like Below Poverty Line Ration Card, Swadhar Yojana (Under which they get ₹ 550.00 towards their food), and last but not least, the widows pension account. To all those involved in paving the way to accomplish this milestone in our efforts in making the widows lives happier and healthier, I thank you.

In closing, let me express my thanks to all those who support our efforts. To our many partners, thank you for your support, assistance, and guidance. To our donors, thank you for your generosity. And to all those who volunteer their time to assist in our work, I thank you. And one last group, our wonderful staff, whose dedication takes all our efforts and turn them into reality, I thank you. Now please, take time to review this document and see what Maitri accomplished this last year. It has been a wonderful year, and I very much look forward to continue working with you in the future, working to improve the lives of marginalized population.

Sincerely,

Lt. General (Retd.) Bhopinder Singh
Seven years ago, in 2005, dawned the commencement of a non-governmental organization (NGO) called MAITRI. Founded by Lt. General (Retd.) Bhopinder Singh and Winnie Singh, Maitri is a work of personal kindness and compassion. Their understanding of and concern for vulnerable populations and more so vulnerable women are the driving force behind Maitri’s success. Originally founded in Shillong, India, Maitri is now based out of New Delhi in order to reach out to meet the needs of its target populations. Through humble efforts, this organization has grown to be the means of assisting thousands of people each year.

One of Maitri’s unique features involves its commitment to the health and welfare of Uniformed Personnel and their families. Maitri is one of the few NGO’s globally carrying this as one of its specific goals. Uniformed personnel constitutes Military, Air Force, Navy, Paramilitary Forces, and all State Police Forces. Among the first initiatives Maitri undertook with the uniform services was an International Conclave: ‘Combat HIV/AIDS – A Uniformed Intervention’ with heads of security forces and defense establishments where former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalaam made the keynote address.

Over the years, Maitri discovered other important social objectives in connection to their work with uniformed personnel. Although military personnel remains an important focus, Maitri expanded its reach to touch the lives of additional marginalized social groups. Maitri’s evolution today focuses primarily on three major objectives: public health, social equity, and education. Public health issues addressed comprise issues such as sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, STI’s, tuberculosis, and general health care and hygiene. Social issues addressed include violence against women, domestic violence, health and welfare, and care and support of destitute and abandoned widows. Education efforts provide education and vocational opportunities to underprivileged children from the slums.

These objectives created both vertical and horizontal growth in terms of the populations Maitri serves. As Maitri involved itself with these issues, the following is a list of some of the populations Maitri targets: military personnel and their families, abandoned and destitute widows, migrant workers and their families, underprivileged children from slum areas, etc. When compiled, the magnitude of the issues Maitri confronts can be daunting. However, with the support and collaboration of its partners, local governments, and the civil society, Maitri continues forward, striving to increase the depth of its existing programmes while seeking to maximize the number of its beneficiaries.

MAITRI is committed to facilitating Citizenship Rights, Basic Services, Dignity, Identity and Respect to the most vulnerable populations. To achieve these objectives, Maitri focuses efforts on the following pillars:

Pillar I: Violence Against Women
- Identification and Voter Cards
- Shelter Facilities
- Provide Basic Nutrition
- Facilitate Healthcare Services
- Provide Opportunities to Build Skills
- Scale up the Programme

Pillar II: Abandoned and Destitute Widows
- Annual National Conference
- Workshops
- Advocacy and Dialogue
- Counseling and Mediation
- Network with Government

Pillar III: Migrant Workers and their Families
- Assist Providing Identification Cards
- Act as an Interface to Provide Government Welfare and Benefits
- Offer Basic Healthcare
- Offer HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Testing and Treatment
- Reach 50,000 by 2015

Pillar IV: Operations and Management
- Enhance Professional & Ethical Management
- Ensure Global Standards of Accountability
- Comply with Regulatory & Auditory Guidelines
- Provide for Staff Welfare & Performance Evaluations
Indian Spinal Injuries Centre examined and medicine were dispensed to the widows. Cataract surgery was provided along with glasses to 36 widows. Weekly visits are made by a medical professional to Chitanya Vihar, providing regular check-ups and medication prescriptions. Daily mid-day meals continue to be provided to the widows in this project.

PROJECT AWAAZ (MIGRANT WORKERS - CENTRAL DELHI)
Project Awaaz addresses the health concerns of migrant homeless rickshaw pullers, focusing on sexual health including STI’s, HIV/AIDS awareness. Assisted by a TI Project funded by the Delhi State AIDS Control Society (DSACS), Project Awaaz offers counseling, advocacy, and medical services at a variety of Drop-in Centers located throughout the Central District of Delhi. Health and social counseling was provided to a total of 3,081 people. To help migrants become more aware of these issues, Maitri organizes a variety of programs, which include workshops, seminars, magic shows and street plays, each designed with specific goals geared towards raising awareness and providing basic health care for migrant workers. Various meetings and trainings were also organized to address HIV/AIDS awareness and health. Over the last year, a total of 7,922 people were registered during the various programs offered. A total of 42 health clinics and 28 activities were conducted. Health clinics treated 2,971 people. HIV tests were conducted for 1,232 people and clinics provided STI treatment for 281 people.

MAITRIGRAM (UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN - R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI)
The Maitrigram project is two-fold. First, it provides supportive education by providing tutoring services to underprivileged students in the slum areas of R.K. Puram. Through the assistance of many volunteers such as high schools and colleges volunteers, the students receive personalized assistance with their schoolwork. Subjects which are taught include Math, English, and Hindi. However, as exams approach, many students preparing for these tests are able to bring in testing subjects to receive particular assistance in preparation. This last year 72 students attended the tutoring center. Maitri gave scholarships in the amount of Rs. 6,000 to 16 students. Each child attending the tutorial center receives nutritional snack each day such as milk, seasonal fruit and biscuit. We are happy to say we have had not a single drop out from Maitrigram.

Maitrigram also boasts a vocational training centre which serves girls and women the slum community of Eka Vihar. During the last year, there were 20 girls trained in cutting, stitching, and designing by a professional teacher. The training centre has 10 sewing machines. In the last year, 6 students earned their certificate in sewing, raising the total number of certificates received since project initiation to 25.
New Project

HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTER (HRC) (HOMELESS POPULATION - CENTRAL DELHI)

Initiated in December 2011, the HRC acquired two buildings for the use of permanent shelters for the homeless. The Commercial Complex, Motia Khan partitioned a portion of its building for use as a temporary night shelter. Night Rescue Visits to bring homeless to the temporary shelter have been run 50 times, benefitting over 1,000 people. Besides providing temporary shelter, Maitri offers to permanent residents' sustenance in the form of 2 daily meals. The HRC also seeks to help each individual receive government benefits. The HRC arranged for 300 people to receive Beghar Cards, helped 300 people obtain UID Enrollment, secured Election I.D. Cards for 50 people, and distributed 50 bus passes to homeless residents. Additional projects include a non-formal education center as well as a vocational training center. Twenty-four health camps have been provided to assist people improve not only their health, but also teach them how to better care for themselves so they know how to keep themselves as healthy as possible. Over 600 homeless have benefitted from these camps. In only a few short months, Maitri, through the HRC has been able to touch many lives and instill in them hope for the future. Hope which will help each individual begin to take the necessary steps to empower, enjoying more satisfied lives. The HRC plans on continuing their projects and expanding the base number of people they are able to assist.


Organization

Executive Board

Dr. Ulf Kristoffersson
Chair

Lt. Gen. Bhopinder Singh
Co-founder and President

Winnie Singh
Co-founder and Executive Director

Dr. Joe Thomas

Dr. Anil Purohit

Advisory Board

Ambassador Diana
Lady Dougan

Kirk L Jowers

Georgette Tan

Dr. Mridula Bandhopadhyay

Tahnee Singh

Mr. Sannjay Sharma

Ravi Verma

Sushil Pandit

Onir

1. Mr. Sunil Mittal, Sr. Advocate
2. Mr. Rajiv Sud
3. Mr. Ram Chopra

Maitri Team

Rohit Wadhwa

Ashok Jolly
Director

Sonal Singh Wadhwa
CEO
Get Involved!

Partner with Us
At Maitri, we recognize that success exponentially increases when meaningful partnerships are forged. We are currently seeing the power of working with partners united in a cause in many of our projects. By combining resources, we are able to impact many more members of vulnerable populations which otherwise would be out of reach. Read about our projects to see how a partnership with your organization can be a winning combination.

Visit Our Projects
Interested in seeing how Maitri operates to improve the lives of underprivileged populations in India? Come visit us in New Delhi and see our work for yourself. Please give us at least 3-weeks of notice so that our staff can arrange time to show you around our sites.

Spread Maitri’s Message
Maitri’s key to success has always been its supporters. Many people, inspired by Maitri’s mission, want to make a difference. Visit this webpage to view a list of ways you can help: http://www.maitriindia.org/?p=175.

Become an Intern
Maitri is proud of its international internship program where students work full-time in the office for one semester. Interns perform a variety of research-oriented projects and have the opportunity to work directly with India’s most vulnerable populations. In addition, Interns are able to experience the culture, cuisine, people and places of India. Interested students should contact Maitri for more information.

Volunteer with Us
Maitri has an international volunteer program for students of all ages. Many of our volunteers come and assist in a specific aspect for one of our programmes. Volunteers mostly work with teaching English, life skills, and helping tutor school children from the slums. For more information, please contact Maitri.

Donate
When making a donation we encourage you to:
- Sponsor a Project
- Honor a Loved One
- View our Wish List

Audited accounts available on request.

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