PRABHAT EDUCATION FOUNDATION is a Public Charitable Trust registered in 2006 under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. Donations to Prabhat are exempted from income-tax under Section 80(G) of the Income-Tax Act 1961. (As per amendment of Section 80(G), existing approval of Prabhat is in perpetuity). Prabhat is authorized to receive donations from overseas under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA Registration No.041910406). Prabhat is registered by the National Trust (Government of India) and by the Government of Gujarat as a recognized institution for persons with disabilities under The Persons with Disabilities Act (1955).

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PRABHAT ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011
This year as seen a significant growth of Prabhat services to special children and their families from its two Centres in Easter and Western Ahmedabad. Maninagar also saw improvement in space and facilities. To better accommodate services, Prabhat rented an additional two small rooms and improved the spaces to provide great flexibilities to meet particular needs such as constructing separate toilets for girls, moving toilet facilities indoors and providing better learning spaces including those for life skills, therapy and counseling. Both Centres have been better equipped with improved physio-therapy equipment, investment in TLM, safer furniture, play materials, and spaces for interaction with parents and families, and training programmes. Safe transport for special children, most particularly those from poor and distant families, has always been a key concern. This year Prabhat introduced van shuttle services which have made a huge difference to many. Capacity building of Prabhat team members has been a measure priority, facilitated and supported by partners. Networking efforts during the year have supported both training as well as outreach through schools and colleagues. These have led a new Prabhat role that has emerged during the year through growing number of interns from colleges and universities seeking exposure to special education. An important recognition came through the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, which commenced its Small Grant assistance to Prabhat in January 2011.

Prabhat Centres:
In addition to the physical improvements mentioned above, major steps were taken this period to improve Prabhat’s educational planning and pedagogical methods. Following a visit by Sir Ratan Tata Trust in November 2009, Prabhat had embarked on a major forward planning exercise which included a review of its experiences over several years and relating this to emerging directions in special education and outreach services. This exercise was conducted in partnership with external experts, using management system that could help Prabhat choose its priorities and communicate this effectively to others, including donors. The process was intensive and time-consuming, and has been extremely helpful in both analysis of the special education environment within which Prabhat works as well as its opportunities for innovation and advocacy. This process, guided by Unnati: Organization for Development Education and Janvikas, led to improvements in internal management structures, educational and training programme and outreach approaches. The final proposal submitted to the Tata Trust were thus more focused and linked to clear indicators of progress that the Prabhat team could monitor.
The year saw efforts to improve classroom management, and to documentation systems that could better track the progress of each child and support monitoring, assessment and counseling efforts.

As in the past, Prabhat used every opportunity during the year to make learning a joyous experience for special children and their families. Key strategies have included sustaining the success of Summer Camps, which this year featured strong community involvement, and festivities that brought Prabhat children together with their siblings, neighbours and friends in a series of experiences that included kite-flying at Sankrant, Holi celebrations, garba nights at Navratri and Christmas. In addition, Prabhat this year introduced regular events at the Centres which could celebrate diversity and respect for all sections of society and the community. Monthly outings included visits to public places, movie shows, sports events (including meeting
cricket stars) and opportunities for performance. These efforts were linked to mainstream schools and other institutions as part of Prabhat’s advocacy for greater efforts at inclusion in the Ahmedabad area. A special feature introduced has been the organization of a two-day outdoor camping experience which took many children into a first experience of this kind, in contrast to the confinement to cramped spaces and seclusion which many special children are forced to endure, particularly if they are poor. Prabhat participated enthusiastically during the year in several city events that have included dance and music events and special sports, in which Prabhat children made their mark and demonstrated their ability to play and compete with others.

Encouraging the involvement of parents continued as a priority approach during the year, with a focus on extending training opportunities, improved communication (through maintaining diaries and other aids), and regular home visits for direct contact and feedback. Prabhat has been encouraged by the growing participation and interest in supporting the child’s progress that has been evident among fathers during this period. An outcome of Prabhat’s efforts at home contact, this is a significant development toward the support many mothers need in bearing the prime responsibility for home care. Field visits were arranged for parents to help encourage and motivate them toward change, including lectures, special film shows, IEC materials, and attendance at a performance by Ability India which demonstrated how ‘able’ and accomplished those with disability can be.

**CBR**

These planning efforts enabled Prabhat to organize its approach to a Community Based Rehabilitation programme, building on the ground work of community and home contacts. A dedicated CBR team was developed during the year, in contrast to earlier efforts by members of two Centres in addition to their other major responsibilities. Training in CBR was taken up with the help of experts and local contacts carefully developed in the community locations selected in the Danilimda ward through base-line and door-door survey surveys conducted in partnership with external experts and Prabhat’s CBR team. The CBR programme commenced in January 2011, with the support of the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust grant.
HR

Rising demands from both Centres as well as the CBR activities have meant concentrated efforts at recruitment, training and refresher opportunities for team members. Training during the year was conducted internally with the support of the experts and opportunities for external exposure were also arranged within and outside Ahmedabad. HR efforts received support from a Prabhat Fellowship programme offered by Unnati to encourage staff members as well as external experts. Janvikas supported the CBR initiative with staff scholarships, and short-term management support for fund-raising was offered by Prabhat trustee Mr Sridhar Rajagopalan. All these efforts took significance during a year in which Prabhat has begun to experience the impact of demand for special educators in the city and in Gujarat, as an outcome of new policies in support of the rights of special children to enter mainstream schools. Seven Prabhat members left for opportunities in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and recruitment and training had to be conducted to fill these spaces. With Prabhat’s growing reputation as a training institution, these pressures will continue as a challenge as well as a welcome indication of growing awareness of special education, a cause basic to Prabhat’s approach and philosophy.

Advocacy

A key feature of Prabhat’s advocacy efforts during the year has been its growing outreach to Municipal and other schools, where recent changes in legal and policy frameworks have opened doors to special children long excluded from admission. Prabhat has used this opportunity to provide training and in-class support to teachers, and counseling to administrators facing new challenges. Also during the year, networking with colleges and universities (including St Xavier’s and Calorx Teachers Training University) has led to a growing number of interns coming to Prabhat for exposure and training in matters concerning special education. A major campaign toward inclusion was conducted by Prabhat in partnership with the renowned Riverside School, which featured exchange visits and a unique ‘buddy’ system which encouraged children and teachers from Riverside and Prabhat Centres too team up together for mutual understanding, support and enjoyment. This has proved an inspiration to other
institutions, and there is growing demand for Prabhat partnerships of this kind. Orientation to special education and its needs was provided to several citizens’ groups during the year through seminars, lectures and hands-on opportunities for interaction and learning.

Funds

The focus on forward planning enabled Prabhat to project its financial needs over the coming three years. Support from the Navanbai Ratan Tata Trust was the highlight of donor relations during this period, which also saw Prabhat contacts with other corporates toward future support, including contact with Torrent and continued support through GiveIndia’s online systems. Prabhat’s FCRA application was approved and Prabhat’s website brought up-to-date. The introduction of transport services to help special children move between home and the Centres was facilitated with support from Unnati and the Ahmedabad Frolic Round Table 199 through their contributions toward vehicle and driver costs.

Visitors

Prabhat welcomed many visitors from city institutions during the year, including Municipal officials, teachers, students and NGO development workers. Ms Nancy Macpherson of the Rockefeller Foundation (New York), Ms Bernadette Anand from the reputed Bank Street School in New York, and Prof James Loehlin of Wellesley College (Massachusetts) were among several visitors from overseas who spent time with Prabhat educators and children, and participated in special events.

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The Prabhat Board of Trustees includes Mr Sridhar Rajagopal (Director, Education Initiatives Pvt.Ltd.), Ms Renu Seth (Programme Leader, Pratham), Mr Geet Sethi (sportsperson and Managing Trustee of the Riverside Foundation), Ms Hasyalatha D Mehta (Social worker, trainer and former Director of the Ambica Sishukendra, Kurnool), Prof Ashoke Chatterjee (former Director, National Institute of Design) and Mr Keshav Chatterjee (founder Director and Managing Trustee).