About Prabhat

The Prabhat Education Foundation reflects a journey that began in 2003 through the identification and nurturing of children with learning difficulties struggling in mainstream schools. In time, realizing the need for education and learning of this group and particularly of children, Prabhat conceptualized an institutional facility to provide systematic learning and rehabilitation services that could be accessible for those challenged by poverty and mobility.

Working with and through local communities is Prabhat’s hallmark.

What started as a modest beginning, with one child in 2007, has now reached to more than 3000 persons with disabilities in Ahmedabad as well as to their families, neighbours and communities.
I was overjoyed when I first took Suraj in my lap. There was a happy atmosphere in our family. Gradually, I began to nurture Suraj and time began to pass. Normally a baby learns by sitting in the seventh-eighth month, but my baby could not get upside down and could not move. I began to worry. We then immediately contacted the doctor. According to the doctor, the baby's brain was affected due to the baby not getting enough oxygen at the time of delivery and the baby not crying immediately after birth. The doctor explained to them that Suraj had a motor disability called Cerebral Palsy, which will affect his ability to control his muscles. Suraj was in immediate need of regular exercising and hence I started getting him to exercise right from the seventh month.

Gradually Suraj grew up and I started physical therapy along with exercise. Since my child learnt to speak late, I also started giving him speech therapy. Suraj had his first surgery on both the legs at the age of 4. It was around this time that I had a daughter, Vrinda. It was very difficult to take care of Suraj in the hospital and Vrinda at home, but I worked without losing courage. There was a slight change in Suraj due to the regular exercises. Suraj was admitted to the school in 2007 in Std-1. I used to pick up and drop Suraj at school. Then we came home and I taught him to practise walking with crutches. Another way we helped him learn standing is digging a pit of about 3 feet, make Suraj stand in it and fill up the pit with sand. Doing this on a regular basis showed improvement in his legs and he learned to walk a little. Suraj underwent a second surgery at the age of 10 and a third at the age of 15. We were very happy when he passed Grade 10 examination at the age of 16 with good marks. After that, having courage, Suraj passed the standard-12 examination. When Suraj was in Std-10, we brought him to Prabhat Center. It has seen a lot of development due to the physiotherapy and many other therapies available from the institute. Suraj was involved in every activity, trip, sports, festival celebration conducted in the institute, and he participated enthusiastically.

Years passed and Suraj has turned 21 years. We are thankful to the Almighty for giving us the strength and opportunity to serve Suraj and we have absolutely no regrets. May God heal Suraj and give him good health.

- Rekha Parekh (Suraj’s Mom)
An outdoor visit for Prabhat’s Children

The "Happy Street “organized by aProCH on the street of the Law-Garden area, Ahmedabad. This event is held on the busiest street of Ahmedabad. The street is closed down for vehicles and different fun activities are organised for children of the city. Children from all over Ahmedabad, irrespective of their class, creed, religion, economic status gather and participate in various activities like dance, music, sports, drawing competition, yoga, Zumba, etc. It’s a great sight to watch children from Prabhat interacting and enjoying activities with children from different organisations and schools.

Volunteer Updates

Volunteers plays an important role and are always welcomed at Prabhat. It’s a pleasure to have young volunteers from different universities come and explore different ways that they can help Prabhat. This month, volunteers from Ahmedabad University helped in the Data Organisation and Data Management. Volunteers from L J college were taken on home visits of 14 children wherein they had a first-hand experience. They were made aware of the various aspects of working with children with special abilities, their challenges and basic needs.

Visitors

Mr Nishit Kayasth from Mazda Company visited the newly opened vocational unit, the Café that is operated by Prabhat Children. Ms Parinda Nanavati visited Prabhat Center and had a fruitful discussion with the team.

Parent Counselling

Counselling workshop was organised for the parents of the Anganwadi Children, where in they were made aware of issues related to basic needs, economic, social and educational issues.

Preparatory Class:

Prabhat conducted a survey, where in we received information of 34 children. We started Preparatory classes for these 34 children so as to prepare them for regular schooling through education, therapy and counselling. These children were assessed, counselled and documented by a physiotherapist. Basic information like family details, social, economic, medical information of each and every child was also documented so as to understand each one better.

Medical Camp

The children underwent a psychological assessment and a free eye check-up for 21 children was conducted by Dr Brinda Shah, after which their annual treatment course was determined.

Distribution Camp

As a part of CSR, Muthoot Finance distributed education kits which included lunchbox, compass box, pen, pencil, writing-pad, water bottle, etc to 50 children. Muthoot Finance distributed reading and writing material and clothes were distributed by Ms Khushboo Sahani, who is a physiotherapist of Prabhat.

A Day at Prabhat

A friend of Prabhat celebrated his birthday in a special way by spending a day at Prabhat. The children were treated to various fun activities, food and gifts. Children eagerly wait for these different friends who spend a day at Prabhat.

Support Services

Support is provided to children / individuals with special needs to acquire services that are allotted to them by the Government. This month the team provided:

- Civil Certificate: - 11
- Railway Pass 03
- ST Pass 08
- Pension Scheme 08
- Bank Account 04

Two of the children who were interested in music were given musical instruments by the Social Security Department.

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The first Vocational Unit was inaugurated by a team from of Social Venture Partnership (SVP) Ahmedabad. The vocational Unit has Café, Tailoring, Paper bag Making and Screen Printing and Computer Literacy units.