

THE OTHER SIDE FOUNDATION

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



***“ EDUCATION IS THE MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU
CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD
“***

Nelson MANDELA



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The Other Side Foundation was established in 2007 with the objective of addressing the 3 most critical issues of education, nutrition and health at grass roots level for marginalized communities focusing on children and juveniles.

Leela Singaram Champ initiated and spearheaded the first project in Zambia in June 2006. To date, through the gracious and invaluable sole benefactor Mr. Daniel Sigaud and the 2 dedicated voluntary executive directors, Ms Leela Singaram Champ and Mr. Denis Champ who actively manage the projects in Zambia and India, the foundation has gone into the next phase of its mission:

ZAMBIA

- Building our own school
- Adopting another community school
- Giving Bursaries

INDIA

- Setting up Computer rooms at the Ramakrishna Mission
- Purchasing an ambulance /mobile clinic

ZAMBIA, AFRICA

Construction of The Other Side Foundation School

We are operating in the outskirts of Lusaka from a church shelter which schools 220 orphans and vulnerable children. In June 2009 land was purchased in George Compound in Matero, one of the poorest areas in Lusaka where 70% of our children come from (the rest of the children walk 5 to 10 kilometers everyday from neighboring shanty villages). Building of the Community School commenced in October 2009. The building will house 7 classrooms, a sick bay and medicine dispensing room, admin and ablution block, kitchen and a recreation area.

NEW SCHOOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Having our own premises will enable us to invite and organize quality training for the teachers, equip the classrooms accordingly with computers and educational material, conduct adult education classes in the evenings; enable the nurse and designated hospitals to screen potentially HIV positive children from our school and also treat children for minor ailments, store all the drugs in a safe, hygienic environment and cook nutritious high protein meals that we offer the children during break time which very often is the only meal of the day for the child.

We have also been approached to take on another 150 vulnerable children who currently are not schooled; we may commence classes in the afternoon to accommodate them.



Bursaries

Out of 18 grade 7 students from our community school, 14 of them who got an aggregate of 80% and above and cannot afford school fees, uniforms and books, received grade 8 bursaries to public schools. Elated parents felt reassured that if their children are diligent, every child would have an opportunity to further their studies and not terminate at free schooling at grade 7 in a community school.



It will be a challenging and escalating responsibility for the foundation to give every deserving child a chance up to tertiary level.

Adoption of another community school

Faith Foundation Community School in the Kanyima district is another community school that we have started supporting since May 2009. Most of the residents and children in Kaniyama township make a living breaking rocks & stones in the open scorching sun, from the boulders found in this limestone region. There are 120 children attending school.

Apart from paying teachers' salaries, giving the teachers appropriate teacher training and educational support, we also feed the children with high protein porridge during break time. The foundation has also set up a modest library corner in their premises.



In the future our involvement in the Faith

Foundation community school and other community schools will be secondary, compared to our involvement as sole operator /administrators in The Other Side Foundation School.

CHENGALPET, SOUTH INDIA

Computers

The Other Side Foundation caters to the day to day needs of 120 boys who attend external schooling but are housed in the hostel/orphanage run by the Ramakrishna Mission monks. Besides providing food, beddings, clothes, school fees, outings, health care, new clothes during festivities and visiting their family once a year, there was an urgent need for computers to do after- school assignments.



The foundation set up a computer room using the Ncomputing Approach which resolves the challenges of deploying dedicated PCs, enabling a single PC to be shared by multiple users at the same time. 1 host computer and 5 monitors were donated, enabling 6 boys at a time to work simultaneously on computers.

Another system with 2 computers was donated to the girls section. These girls from very low income families come daily from the neighboring villages to get tutored, do their homework and receive a meal prepared by volunteers and the monks. Our modest contribution enables these underprivileged girls to have access to computers, do their homework or just simply be exposed to computers which is very much part and parcel of basic education in the 21st century.

In the future we will be equipping them with more computers.

Diagnostic Mobile Clinic

In December 2009 a traveler ambulance (originally designed by Mercedes Benz Germany, now manufactured in India by Forces Motors) was purchased for the Ramakrishna Mission to enable them to diagnose and treat if possible, villagers who are ill but either have no means to get to a hospital/clinic or are merely too ill to travel. Volunteer doctors and nurses together with the monks have been covering a few villagers in a 4 wheel drive and treating numerous patients in each village. The demand for medical attention in these remote villages has far outstretched the capacity of a doctor and nurses in a cramped 4 wheel drive.

Hence a mobile clinic in a proper traveler ambulance to facilitate their work was proposed by The Other Side Foundation. Currently the interior of this vehicle is being remodeled to fit foldable seats which double up as examining tables, laboratory facilities, medicine cabinets and basic mobile clinic requirements. It would be operational in February 2010.

Morocco

In July '09 following an invitation from the donor, Mr. Sigaud, we went on a fact finding mission to Marrakesh. Visited various nonprofit organizations, Douars and a Berber village in the Atlas mountains to better understand the needs of marginalized communities in the outskirts of Marrakesh.

Needs analysis:

1. OVCs with a Physical handicap

Out of the 5 nonprofit organizations we interviewed, Al Karam Association for street kids (Association pour le protection des enfants en situation precare) provided us with specifics of street children and their reinsertion program.

Physically handicapped street children and handicapped children from underprivileged homes in Marrakesh have no structure or support from any nonprofit organizations. They either use their handicap to beg or/and eventually die in the streets as they have nowhere or no one to turn to.

2. Douars



Most douars are very difficult to access as they are in remote hilly areas (usually accessed by walking, donkey ride or 4 wheel drive if the pathways permit) hence medical care, water and electricity is scarce. The Haouz douar that we visited had schools but no electricity, medical facilities and minimal water. Very often pregnant mothers die or are unable to have safe delivery (new born babies don't survive) because they cannot get to a medical facility in time.







3. Berber village in Atlas mountains

We went to Imi-n-Oulaoun situated at 2,273 meters in the Atlas mountains, 100km from Ouarzazate. Brought medicines for 40 families in that village and stayed overnight in mud huts to try and experience firsthand what the Berbers face daily. Lack of medicines, medical facilities, schools, water and electricity is amplified due to the altitude and remoteness of these villages in the Atlas mountains.

The Other Side Foundation may not be able to address all the challenges of the marginalized in and around Marrakesh, however the foundation hopes to study further and conclude where the most urgent need is

Our Vision

In our perpetual quest to empower the needy through education, healthcare and nutrition, The Other Side Foundation will continue to:

-  Promote a culture of learning
-  Provide access to quality education
-  Identify OVCs (orphans and vulnerable children) in the school system
-  Provide at least 1 nutritious meal per day for the undernourished
-  Create awareness of HIV through healthcare / prevention
-  Reach out to the sick and needy in remote areas

“WE OURSELVES FEEL THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS JUST A DROP IN THE OCEAN BUT THE OCEAN WOULD BE LESS BECAUSE OF THAT MISSING DROP”

MOTHER THERESA