



**#2**

**2019 December**

Dear Supporters of Pustakaar,

Welcome to our second quarterly newsletter! We are so grateful for all of your support and we want to share Pustakaar news with all of you on a regular basis. We have been really busy these past few months, and are excited to share our updates with all of you!

### **WWW.PUSTAKAAR.ORG**

We are finally on the web! We have been working with a team to help get us set up online. On the website, you can find information about all of our programs and ways to get involved. Please tell your circle of friends and family members to visit the site! Volunteers, please forward any favorite photos you may have to share to our photo gallery on the site. The latest newsletter can also be found on the 'Blog' tab of the website. Take a look around and please do share your feedback.

### **UNITED WAY HYDERABAD**

We are very pleased to share that Pustakaar has been empaneled with United Way Hyderabad. We have been approved after being vetted through a very stringent screening process. United Way of Hyderabad is part of the global United Way Worldwide charity network. United Way Worldwide is among the world's oldest charitable organizations with a history that spans well over a century, and has 1800 Chapters in 40 countries. United Way Hyderabad will give Pustakaar access to more resources and even more school children to support with Pustakaar books!

## 10<sup>th</sup> HYDERABAD CHILDRENS THEATRE FESTIVAL

Pustakaar has been sending students to HCTF from the inception of the festival. This year, the HCTF had a traveling drama and reached out to Pustakaar to see if we could provide space in the schools we support. Kokapet and Sri Rama schools offered to host HCTF for their students. Pustakaar students at Emmaus School, Kokapet Upper Primary School, and Sri Rama School were fortunate to see a performance 'Hil Mil Kar' by a fabulous visiting dramatic artist from Mumbai, Swangvale. Adults and children at both venues really enjoyed his story telling. Children of Arunodaya School, Ramchander School, and VPS Banjara Hills also went to the HCTF venue to watch 'Basti Mein Masti'.





Photo 1: Arunodaya School students at HCTF venue with artists  
Photo 2: Ramchander School students at the HCTF venue  
Photo 3: HCTF artist Dhanendre of Swangvale with students of Emmaus School

## **RAINBOW FOUNDATION INDIA: RFI**

Pustakaar team members recently met with the Hyderabad chapter of RFI to introduce Pustakaar books and our reading program into Rainbow Homes in Secunderabad. RFI supports 18 homes in Hyderabad providing residential, non-custodial, comprehensive long-term care for marginalized children. Pustakaar is rolling out an initial pilot program for 5 Rainbow Homes, to be increased by June 2020. We will also be training RFI teachers and volunteers how to use our packets for reading sessions.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION: RDF**

Rural Development Fund was set up to provide quality education to rural, underprivileged children in Telangana. RDF supports almost 2000 students across four villages. Recently, Mr. Vishnu Murthy, Headmaster of RDF Matendla School visited the Pustakaar office. He brought two students of his school with him, Supreethika and Poojitha (photo below). They love to read and were very keen on looking through our books and baskets. We have partnered with RDF and will be supporting their school located in Siddipet with Pustakaar books. By June 2020, we plan on providing Pustakaar teacher training for reading sessions, and rolling out our books to the remaining three RDF schools located in Warangal.



## **SCHOOL PROFILE:**

Arunodaya School, Gachibowli  
Grades LKG-10<sup>th</sup> 250 students

Arunodaya High School has been part of Pustakaar since 2012. With two branches-one in Gachibowli and another one in Masjidbanda, Kondapur; Ms. Aruna runs the school successfully. Ms. Yasmin, the teacher in charge has always been very cooperative and she understands our purpose very well. They were part of Global Read Aloud program in association with a primary school in Texas, they read a story book and exchanged their ideas via videos. It was a great learning experience for both schools to demonstrate their learning of stories with each other from across the planet!



## **VOLUNTEER PROFILE: RAKSHA JESRANI**

Raksha Jesrani has been a Pustakaar volunteer at Indian People School since January 2018. Raised in Hyderabad, she worked as a chartered accountant (C.A.) before leaving the workforce to pursue painting full time. She specializes in acrylic and alcohol inks, and has had her work displayed at art events – and Pustakaar fundraisers. Here is what she thinks of her time with Pustakaar:

*“Firstly, I am very happy to be volunteering for Pustakaar, as I relate to its goals of educating children through story telling and book reading. This is*

my second year at IPS, and I enjoy being with the kids. I take back a lot in terms of energy and happiness and I hope too that the kids have taken something from me as well. Most of my classes have a story telling, meanings and pronunciation along the way and moral, if any, at the end of it. Very often the students volunteer to narrate the story in their own words, either in English or in the language of their choice. Of late, I have also started some activities like dumb charades and pictictionary, in the hope that the children read, understand and express the words. Most of these sessions are high energy and full participation. Of course, word search is one of their favorite activities and the last 10 minutes are often designated for that. I have enjoyed volunteering with Pustakaar because

1. No pressure is put as to how I must conduct the sessions
2. The packets that I receive are so well thought out, I really don't have to plan much in advance. They are amazing in the content that they carry.
3. The kids are fun to be with and the school management has always been very cooperative and non- interfering.

All in all, I love this job, and will continue doing it. Thank you!"

- Raksha Jesrani



Our volunteers mean the world to us. We are so grateful to all of them for volunteering the most important luxury: their time!

**IN THE NEWS:**

The American Journal of Pediatrics recently published a study on the value of reading to young children, and the positive effects it has on their vocabulary. For the link to the article, please go to:

[https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476\(19\)30841-8/fulltext](https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(19)30841-8/fulltext)

Once again, thank you for all of your support. We look forward to sharing more news with you next quarter. **We wish all of our supporters a wonderful 2020!**

Warm regards,  
PUSTAKAAR by ANSH FOUNDATION

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