

2018-03-27 Asha-Austin Meeting notes

Date

27 Mar 2018

Attendees

- Rangakrishnan Srinivasan
- Bharathkumar Thandri
- Subra Nathan
- Arvind Rao
- Vandana Mallempati
- Sowmya Suryanarayanan

Goals

- Site Visit Update on Nethra Vidyalaya

Discussion items

Time	Item	Who	Notes
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1 hour	Site Visit Update on Nethra Vidyalaya	Vandana Mallempati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A potential new project for Asha-Austin with proposal originally obtained in November 2017 by Team Asha Runner and Asha-Austin volunteer, Vandana Mallempati • Vandana had presented preliminary proposal in Dec 2017 and did a site visit in March 2018 during her India trip • Own premises in 2013, free education, includes hostel and food/lodging • 80 boys + 35 girls with 14 teachers who specialize in special needs education • 20 kms from Vishakhapatnam main center • 1st floor - all classrooms/ library/ staff room/ computer room • 2nd floor - dining area, kitchen, girls hostel, boys hostel • 6 teachers commute from Vijayanagaram; other 8 teachers are in Vishakhapatnam • 1 warden for boys/ girls - Non teaching staff for residential premises • Current funding - donations and contributions from individuals; corpus funds • Mrs. Lakshmi - lead fundraiser for the school, individual donors connect to known charity organizations • If there is funding shortfall per month, then they dip into the trust funds to cover the shortfall • Government funding - declined with no reason given • There is a government girls high school for the visually challenged, couple of miles from this school, which does get government funding • Get a list of blind children born in the region and individually go an meet and talk to the families and get them enrolled in the school • Organization donated Braille books, local charities donated computers, donated software to them - One time donations • Current model of trust funds plus individual donations seem to cover their needs • Follow state board syllabus - help with scribes • Vocational products - ship to people in US - paper bags, candle making, wire bags, greeting cards, glass painting, friendship bands • Music, Dance and Drama given importance in the school • Original proposal - teaching aids, hiring english teacher, etc. In the past few months, they have been able to get donors /donations • Funding model based on individual contributions and donations - significant dip in the past few months - having tough time paying to regular teaching and non-teaching staff • If Asha could help pay for the teacher salaries or food expenses • Permanent teachers - 1.85 lacs/ month, Non-teaching staff - 35k/ month, Food expenses - 1.5 lacs/ month, Miscellaneous - 1 lac/month

Action items

- Vandana Mallempati - what is the status of their trust funds ?
- Vandana Mallempati - look into their financials and audit reports next time the project comes up for ongoing review.
- Rangakrishnan Srinivasan - What do we need to do to take on a new project ?
- Rangakrishnan Srinivasan - Set up an online poll to see if we take it up vs. solicit other chapters to fund it ?
- Vandana Mallempati - FCRA clearance and validity
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