

Newsletter – January to March 2023

We started the year with a bang!



This quarter has been incredibly busy. ABC continues to thrive, but with 20 children admitted to hospital some of whom needed ICU and ventilator support, we have had our hands full. Most responded well to their treatment however there are six little ones keeping us on our toes. These children who either have disabilities or who are immunocompromised have been admitted repeatedly, though we are happy to report that all are getting better and the gaps between their admissions is increasing.

It is heartwarming to be able to support these children as these are exactly the kids for whom ABC was started; infants who need a lot of special care and often many admissions before they get to the point of being strong enough to fight other common ailments. Once we take on a case, we continue supporting

the child as needed. Our six remaining children have some complex needs: two have gastric tubes, one has a tracheostomy, two are pre-term and low birth weight babies, and one baby's immune system's defences are very low so their ability to fight off infections and diseases is jeopardised.

Unexpectedly, this has meant admissions lasting more than 2 months and our highest bill was a staggering INR 16.4 lakhs!! We admit that we were not prepared for so many admissions and huge costs. We are very thankful to some of our CSR sponsors and some individual donors who stepped in at short notice and helped us clear all of our outstanding invoices. Regrettably, we also had to dip into our contingency funds and therefore it is vital that we rebuild our reserves this year.

We desperately need an injection of cash so that we can continue to offer the high level of support our children often need. Please do spread the word to both individual donors (your friends and families) as well as any corporates looking for CSR partnerships. ABC has 12A, 80G and CSR-1. We however do not have FCRA.



WE TURNED 10!



The current ABC Governing board

L-R (Madhulika, Gita, Radhika, Amita, Prarthana, Latika, Luchelle, Nidhi)

Missing: (Deepthi, Syamala)



Our awesome cuddlers - old and new...

A BREAK FROM THE STORM

We had a brief moment of respite when we had a small celebration for our 10th anniversary. We invited all our corporate sponsors, volunteers - cuddlers, runners and many others; some big donors, and our core team and families.

Here are some messages received from volunteers/supporters that have moved to other countries or cities but are a core part of ABC no matter where in the world they are.

Please do take a few moments to listen to them as they share their experience of ABC.

ABC through the years: 10 Years of ABC

Lindsey

Anastasia

Syamala

Reeza

Glacibel

We also had a small celebration with our staff to thank all of them for their service towards the orphaned children we support. (pics below)





We welcome our newest Governing Board Member - Deepthi Davuluri. Deepthi has been volunteering with ABC for a few years and has been associated with us for many more. She is an active runner, cuddler and was the key coordinator for our mental health project. Please join us in welcoming her to our ABC Family!

**OUR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETS
CONTINUE...**



Thank you to Varudhini and Shalini, both counselling psychologists from **Inner Connect**, for continuing to facilitate our monthly support group meets for our volunteers (cuddlers and runners) and supporters. Not only do the volunteers get to share their experiences, but they also learn little tools and tricks to add to their emotional toolboxes. This is useful specifically when volunteering in a highly emotionally-charged environment like ABC and these skills can be utilised in many other possible generally stress-inducing situations. In our last session, we shared our thoughts and did a small exercise on anxiety and grounding.



Early Intervention

With the help of our amazing volunteer and occupational therapist Marla, we continue to provide focused therapy for children who have delayed milestones. Her team works with this group everyday to assist them in reaching their next expected goals. She has also kindly donated a play pen specifically for two children with visual impairment. This provides a safe space for these little ones to explore their surroundings. We have seen positive changes in both of these

children.

We have also provided customised orthotics/splints to over twenty special needs children. This is something we have committed to doing regularly. As the children grow, they need modifications or new orthotics to ensure they continue to develop accordingly. Unsurprisingly this comes at some cost and we spent over **INR 3 lakhs** to give this vital support to these deserving children.





RUNNER UPDATES

More news on the repeated admissions

As we said at the start of this newsletter, it has been challenging keeping up with the twenty hospitalisations, some of which are long term cases.

Baby S, (pre-term/low birth weight) spent over two months in the hospital - some of which was in ICU with ventilator support due to underdeveloped lungs. Unfortunately he was admitted two more times for a viral infection and for respiratory distress.

We had a few admissions for **Chicken Pox and measles** (severe attacks for immunocompromised children). This is also the reason we have temporarily suspended visits to the orphanage. Once all cases are deemed to be non-infectious, we will restart our visits .

We had a few more repeated admissions for the child with the **tracheostomy** and we also needed to support a small surgery for a special needs child requiring a **gastric feeding tube**. It is important to say that the intervention continues once the child is discharged as many need special care - especially during feeding time. Fortunately, the children are going back to the orphanage and they improving slowly.

PREVENTATIVE CARE

A vital role for us is the continuation of our focus on our Preventive Care Projects. We do this via weekly tracking of FTT children, vaccinations, and supplements.

We have an ongoing commitment to provide life-saving vaccines; Influenza, MMR, Typhoid, Hep A, and Chicken Pox, to boost the immunity of the children we support.

EXPENSES

While we are incredibly grateful that we have been able to facilitate the care for those children who need specialised treatment, we have to deal with the realisation that we have spent close to **INR 66 lakhs** in Q3 on hospitalisations. That is the most we have ever spent in any one quarter. It is understandable as we have outlined that many of our babies continue to need special care as they grow up.

Other notable expenses were close to **INR 6 lakhs** on salaries for the baby caretakers and other staff and over **INR 4 lakhs** on other medical expenses like supplements, vaccines etc. We also spent close to **INR 2 lakhs** on miscellaneous expenses like medical files, hygiene products, baby items, transport etc. Moving forward we are trying to think of new ways we can generate funds so that we can continue to offer the best care to the children we support. If you know of any individual or company who would be able to support us, please get in touch with us.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT



We received the following message from our volunteer Heer, who has donated money to us on her sister's behalf.

*It's an earnest request to channelize these funds specifically to the mentally challenged in the fondest memory of my sister Vaisakhi who was one of them, only far luckier to grow up in a loving family. *Heer*

Thank you to Heer for donating funds in memory of her sister. We currently support many special needs children and we will ensure the funds are directed as requested.

We are thankful for the continued support of our Corporate donors and CSR Partners (donations received this quarter):

Alphageo (India) Limited

Cotiviti India Private Limited

Pegasystems Worldwide

United Way of Hyderabad

And our newest partners

Greenpark Hotels and Resorts Limited

Vuchi Media Mint

Additionally, we couldn't do what we do without our wonderful individual donors (who have given over Rs. 5000 in the past quarter):

- Aparna
Katta
- Gita
Dasika

- Dr.
K.
S.
Lakshmi
- Harleen
Gajria
- Heer
Pujala
- Marla
George
- Nidhi
Agarwal
- Ramchandran
Manjeri
- Ratnakar
Reddy
Kona
- Sonali
Vasoo
- Sunanda
Reddy
- Syamala
Subhashini
- T.S.
Chitra
Nithya

Many above are our board members and their families who helped because of the funding issues we had in the last quarter due to increased hospitalisation costs.

Donors in Kind:

- Therapy items from Marla George
- Books and toys from Lindie Bosman

As we round up this newsletter we hope you can see that many people are involved in helping us to support the children at ABC. Thank you to everyone for all you do. We look forward to the forthcoming quarter with renewed joy to have these special little ones in our lives.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain. - Mahatma Gandhi

We need you!



You can be a volunteer or help us...

- Cuddle babies
- Raise funds
- Coordinate hospitalizations
- Pledge a fixed monthly amount
- Donate towards special projects
- Donate diapers and baby toiletries
- Donate money for the medical needs of the babies we support
- Corporate partnerships (CSR)

ABC is an entirely volunteer based organization, with all proceeds going directly to support the orphans we work with.

We are always in need of Volunteers to help with the various requirements. You can make a difference too!

CALL US

+91 7032489040

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WRITE TO US AT

abcinhyderabad@gmail.com



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