ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report 2018

"To look after orphans and widows in their distress"

Mahima Ministries

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independence day celebrations at Mahima Ministries Ameenpur

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MAHIMA MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT

Mahima Ministries is a non-government organization working at the grass roots level by caring for and touching the lives of people who are in distress.

Our main focus is serving the following groups:

Orphans & abandoned children
Mentally ill and destitute elderly adults
HIV/AIDS patients without anyone to care for them
Youth under court jurisdiction
Community care and development
(*Mahima Ministries is a Non-Government Organization serving the poor in various ways.*)

We are committed to care irrespective of religion, caste, creed or ethnicity, by providing people counseling, food, shelter, clothing, education and medical treatment with a holistic approach.

Right now we have four functioning facilities where we serve:

1. Mahima Ministries Child Care Institution and School, Ameenpur
2. Juvenile Observatory Home, Sangareddy
3. Community Development Centre and Green Boys Home, Sidduluru
4. Home for Destitute, Aged and HIV/AIDS Infected People, Kothagadi, Vikarabad

Mahima Ministries Campus at Ameenpur

1. Mahima Ministries Child Care Institute, Ameenpur

- The main location for Mahima Ministries is our campus in Ameenpur which is 3 km from the major crossroad at Lingampally/BHEL. At this site there are a total of 75 children (34 girls and 41 boys) aged 6 to 13 years. As orphans, abandoned children, semi- orphans and below poverty line children, they are enrolled with us through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Some are referred to us through police officers, heath care workers, friends or well wishers. Others find us through Just Dial or internet searches. Regardless of how they arrive, we feed, house and nurture all of them, including providing for their education.
- After moving into a 600 square foot building in 2012, the Ameenpur campus has been constantly under construction. The first building with multi-story capacity was sponsored by Deloitte and completed in early 2016. Shortly afterward, Verity Solutions expanded the improvements. The new facility which was inaugurated on 23 November 2016 and features residential and bathing facilities for each gender on separate floors along with a dining hall and kitchen. Altogether with the new school building, the floor space of the Ameenpur campus now exceeds 15,000 square feet.
- Teams from companies such as Verity Solutions, Franklin Templeton, Sales Force and TCS have visited the campus on weekends to interact with the children. They engage in fun activities and educational games as part of their CSR activities. Sometimes they even take our children to their facilities for exposure visits.
- A total of 274 meals were sponsored meals in the first 10 months of 2018. Most of these sponsors are individuals such as families celebrating a child's birthday or an anniversary. Other sponsored meals are taken up by companies while doing CSR activities on campus.
- Mahima Ministries was selected to be a temporary home by the government-sponsored SMILE and Muscan Operation. Through this initiative, children who are rescued from child labor are temporarily placed in hostels while they wait for further action by the District Magistrate. Some of the children are placed under Mahima for further care and protection. We enroll them under our CCI and school and take care of them until further orders of the CWC committee (Child Welfare Committee)
- We have 18 staff and many volunteers who work efficiently towards the advancement of the organization. (As of this year,) all staff are now provided with ESI benefits.
- Regular medical camps are conducted to the children and medicine is given to them if needed. Children who are sick are taken to the nearby hospital. We are looking for a volunteer doctor who can visit us on a regular basis and conduct a clinic.
- As there is need for separate quarters for both boys and girls, we are constructing a new structure behind the office room. For this we have acquired a piece of government land from local authorities and construction has started.

Story of a Brother and His Sister

Kamalakar and Suma (names changed) are brother and sister. They were found begging in the streets of Sadhashivapet and were taken to the district authorities. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) referred these children to Mahima Ministries for care, protection and education. Both parents, including their physically handicapped father, agreed for the children to join Mahima. On asking why their children were begging, they revealed some sad details. They explained that they were Joginis, (who offer themselves to the temple). As they don't know how to do any other work and the father is paralyzed, the parents resorted to begging in the streets, trains and roadsides. As there is no proper childcare, their children were also involved in street begging. That is when they were caught.

After much counseling, the children joined Mahima Ministries Child Care Institution and were later admitted in the Mahima Ministries School. As both of the children did not have any basic schooling, they found it tough to cope with their studies. In the beginning, they would not sit in the class room, but would merely loiter. Now, one year later, they have adjusted to the campus environment and are picking up in their studies. Now they show no signs of home sickness, but visit their home and relatives during the festivals and holidays.

Mahima Ministries has always been a place of proper care and protection for children who are in need. We also cooperate with local government bodies and service providers. You would notice this during the MUSCAN and SMILE operation, which are the projects initiated by government to rescue child laborers, beggars and rag pickers. Some of the children will be placed back at our centre by the CWC. We at Mahima give care, protection, shelter and education to all the children without any bias.

In the recent times, we are also reregistered under the new website developed by the Telangana State Women and Child welfare department, which is mandatory for the CCI to run and are licensed to run for the next 5 years. We have also presented all the children in front of the CWC committee as per the JJB Act 2015 and get FORM 18 (which is mandatory for the joining of a child in to a CCI). And we also present the child before leaving the home permanently in front of the committee to get FORM 20 (the surrendering to the guardians or parents form). As the government is making all screws tight, we are maintaining our best to abide at our best to the government norms and laws.

Thank you for all your support. Without which it would be surely a tough task, bringing up these children, giving them good food, shelter and good education.

Mahima Ministries is always thankful for your partnership.

It is not only the care, protection, feeding and education, but Mahima Ministries see that the children will have overall development. We have extracurricular activities such as sports, indoor games, drawing and gardening.

Mahima Ministries School at Ameenpur

In 2014, the State Ministry of Education granted us permission to run a school from 1st to 7th standard. The Mahima Ministries School follows the state syllabus.

- We have 10 teaching staff. Five of them have Master's degrees and three of them have Bachelor of Education degrees. Non-teaching staff include 3 administrators, 1 cook and 2 helpers.
- Mahima has established a school library with more than 1000 titles in English. Most of the books are elementary level reading books, though it also features higher level literature and reference works. The library promotes literacy and a culture of curiosity and learning.
- A computer lab with internet access has been set up and should be fully operational in early 2019.
- Mahima has started promoting music education. Mahima has a large collection of instruments and has sent students to a one-month music camp for the past 2 years. Plans are for students to learn instruments such as the guitar, piano, drums, clarinet and flute.
- Plans are in place to expand classroom space for the school. This will provide all age levels with larger classrooms and will help to extend the school to 10th standard. These are expected to be ready by the next academic year or sooner.
- Plans are in place to provide staff quarters on campus, using the small classrooms that are currently being used by the lower primary classes. This is expected to improve staff retention and provide more stable staffing levels.

2. Juvenile Observatory Home, Sangareddy

In January of 2016, Mahima Ministries was selected by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to hold an Observatory Home for children in conflict with the law. Under the Juvenile Justice Board, Mahima now has 4 staff working with this project. At any given time there will be 4 to 10 boys under observation. They will stay until they are called to appear for their hearing with the District Magistrate. In 2017-18, a total of 36 boys stayed at our centre. A total of 144 children have passed through the centre since the beginning of the Observation Home.

3. Community Development Centre and Green Boys Home, Sidduloor

The Community Centre at Sidduloor is located in a rural area outside of Vikarabad. This site is supervised by three Mahima staff members.

Much progress was made in 2016 with campus facilities, services provided and community relations. Two residential rooms were also finished so that outside guests are now able to stay overnight with adequate facilities. In October 2017, first floor pillars and a roof slab were added to expand the total space to 2400 square feet. Much work is finished, but we expect to complete the construction by the end of 2017.

The site bore well has proven to be a great resource for the Centre, as it has an abundant source of good tasting water at a time when other local wells were either dry or provided unsatisfactory water. In response, Mahima decided to make a public connection from our rooftop water tanks to the roadside so that the community could access our water. It proved

to be a popular offering, as a constant stream of villagers came with their water containers to avail 4000 liters of water per day, the current limit of our storage capacity. In 2017, a 20,000 liter concrete water tank was constructed.

Registration of Mahima Ministries CCI under the new protocol under the Women and Child Welfare Department. The CCI was visited by the officers who gave a temporary 6-month registration to "Mahima Ministries Boys Home – Sidloor". There are currently 6 boys aged 13 to 16 years at this home. They attend the local ZP High School in Sidduloor.

4. Home for Destitute, Aged and HIV/AIDS Infected People, Kothagadi, Vikarabad

The Mahima Home near Vikarabad represents the first project of Mahima Ministries, relocating from Chandanagar in 2012. In 2013, Ivy CompTech sponsored the construction of a 3500 square-foot facility that now houses a variety of residents: destitute, mentally handicapped, and elderly adults along with HIV/AIDS infected patients. Mr. Venkanna and his family are taking care of this site. At present there are 20 elderly and mentally handicapped adults and 8 HIV/AIDS patients. We provide all of them shelter, food and care. The HIV patients avail their treatment from the nearby government hospital. As all these residents are destitute, we do not charge them for these services.

Some government officials recently visited the Mahima Ministries Home for Destitute, Aged and HIV/AIDS Infected People. They suggested some facility changes and asked us to register the home as an "Old Age and Disabled Home." The home was subsequently registered with the Child and Women Welfare department while construction has been started to improve the campus facilities. In mid 2018, the roof one of the halves of the building was deconstructed to prepare for further development. Interior pillars and a roof slab were constructed in October 2018. This block will create more room for office space and allow separate quarters for the old aged, HIV affected residents, and also for the children.

Story from Kothagadi, Vikarabad

Local police brought an old lady named Shyrabanu to Mahima Ministries Ameenpur from a mental asylum in Hyderabad. She was sound in mind yet had been at the asylum for a long time since no one had come to claim her. Shyrabanu once belonged to well off family in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. She raised her children, got them married and even built them houses. However, when someone poisoned her, she was admitted to the mental hospital.

Now Shyrabanu has been moved to Kothagadi Old Age and Destitute Home where she is provided shelter, food, clothing and a homely atmosphere. Here there are a total of 20 other ladies and men who are mentally challenged or aged and destitute who provide Shyrabanu company. They are cared for by the Mahima Ministries team. The locals also are very supportive, sponsoring many need things such as bags of rice and other provisions.

Notable Events, in Chronological Order

- **Children's Day Celebration 2017.** The children's day celebration was grandly celebrated. Mr. Mahipal Reddy Garu, MLA, Patancheru, came as chief guest. He promised that he would commence the laying of a good drainage system for our colony. This work was finished within a few months and should be functional within few months from now. We appreciate that politicians, regardless of their party affililiation, act favorably toward Mahima Ministries.

- **New Year 2018 Celebration:** Children at Mahima Ministries Celebrated the New Year celebration with many guests and well wishers visiting us. Its like some of the relatives visiting us. It was fun, grand and lots of happiness.
- **Republic Day Celebration:** 69th Republic Day was grandly celebrated at Mahima Ministries Home. Activities were organized by a volunteer who has faithfully led this event for the past 6 years. The children went on a rally around Ameenpur village, chanting slogans "Jai Hind, India is the Best".

- **SMILE IV Operation**: We gave shelter for 65 children (41 boys and 14 girls) who were rescued from child labour during this operation in January 2018. It is an initiative by the Integrated Child Protection Scheme of the Central Government of India.

- **Medical Camp by JMM was** conducted for children at Mahima Ministries on 3rd March 2018. A doctor from AFMC came and treated the children. The team checked the children thoroughly and gave away medicine for those with health issues.

- **Children for Adoption:** Last year Mahima Ministries handed over its infant children and children below 6 years to Sishu Gruha Sangareddy, a government home. Two of the children, Lalika and Jessika, were given for adoption to eligible parents by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). The Hindu newspaper featured an article about them, bringing good attention to Mahima.

- **Annual Day Celebration** was celebrated on 4th April 2018. All the children were colorfully dressed and performed. Well wishers and partners who came to the celebration were the day's chief guests. Mr. Maharaju and family reminded everyone of the meek beginnings of Mahima Ministries and how it grew to what it is today. Mr. Pandu Ranga Reddy, the village leader who helped Mahima procure the present site, talked about how things were started. Mr. Prabhu Prasad also shared memories of his long friendship with Mr. Maharaju, his struggles and how things fell in line over a period of time.

- **Summer Holidays:** Children went to meet their loved ones and extended families in the month of April for summer holidays. We always believe that family and extended families are important connected children should maintain.

- **Summer Music Camp**: ACCORD–MusiCamp 2018 was conducted Mr. Rufus in Shamshabad. This is a month-long event that develops the talent of unprivileged and unreached. Eight children of Mahima Ministries attended this program and learned vocals and instruments such as guitar, drums and keyboard. Pictured on the right, Ms. Pavinaka (on the mike singing) and Ms. Pooja (playing guitar) played with other band members on the final day celebration.

- **Solar Power Plant Installation**: We are very grateful to Franklin Templeton for their sponsorship of the 10 KV Solar Power Plant in the month of May 2018. It is a solar grid system, run in collaboration with the electricity board. The bill will be adjusted between the solar production and our regular consumption of the public electricity. This has reduced the electricity bill from an average of Rs. 25,000 per month to less than Rs. 1,000.

- **The New CCI Registration:** The Women and Child Welfare Department of Telangana has made it mandatory to update the details of all children in Child Care Institutions via the government web site for CCI's. They also require us to reregister the organization for an operating licence. Mahima Ministries have applied for all the 3 CCI's which are at Ameenpur-Sangareddy, Sidloor and Kothagadi/Vikarabad. We were issued a 5-year license for the CCI at Ameenpur. 6-month licenses were issued for Sidduloor and Kothagadi as they have been started more recently.
- **Mahima Ministries School:** Reopened on the 1st June. Many of the donors and well wishers of the children have graciously given notebooks, textbooks, stationary and uniforms. On Independence Day, we changed the school uniform to a standard form.
- **Seminar:** Multi Stake Holders Meeting – Sensitization of police officers, CDPO's, DCPU's, CCI's & NGO's of Sangareddy, Medak & Siddipet on JJ Act 2015, POSCO was conducted. Six of the Mahima staff attended the seminar.
- **International Yoga Day:** Mahima Ministries celebrated the International Yoga day on 21st June 2018 as part of the national event.
- **Annual Picnic:** Children were taken to Golkonda Fort for a picnic outing. They were very excited afterwards and were talking about the history of Hyderabad, the Koninoor diamond, and other tales.

- **MUSCAN 4 Operation:** We gave shelter for 54 children (53 boys and 1 girl) who were rescued from child labour during this operation, which continued for the entire month of July. Two of the boys were kept back by the CWC for their further care, protection and education.
- **71st Indian Independence Day Celebration:**

  Mahima Ministries Ameenpur – The Sub Inspector of Police of Ameenpur came as chief guest and hoisted the flag. (Photo of this is featured on the cover page.)

  Community Centre, Sidloor – Mr. Gouse Pasha, Sarpanch of Sidloor, came as chief guest and hoisted the flag. The Mahima Ministries children and local neighborhood people participated in the event. (The photo on the right shows the campus and flag hoisting.)

  Juvenile Observatory Home, Sangareddy: Juveniles in Conflict with Law (JCL's) and the staff of the Observatory Home celebrated Independence Day with Mr. Ratanam, District Child Protection Officer.

- **Partnership with International school of Hyderabad:** We are very glad to be associated with International school of Hyderabad, They are located within the ICRICAT campus. They have benevolently donated their play equipments to Mahima Ministries School. And also taking Mahima Ministries school children once in a week to train them up in various activities like English skills, sports and music. Recently in an annual even of their school, they have give chance to share the stage with Mahima Ministries children to sing a song of solidarity and love.

(Mahima Ministries Children (in yellow) Singing along with ISH Children)

Milestones in Mr. R.D. Maharaju's Life in 2018

1. CWC member: CWC (Child Welfare Committee) membership was extended until further notification. Ever since he became a member in this committee in 2014, the role gave him great involvement with child related legal issues. He has participated in many rescue operations and has been involved in mediating cased related to child marriage, child adoption, child labor, begging and Child Care Institutes.
2. Called for NCPCR interview: Mr. Maharaju was the only person from Telangana selected to interview for the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). A notable highlight was meeting Ms. Meenaka Gandhi, the honorable Minister for Women and Child Welfare Department.
3. Called for SCPCR interview: Mr. Maharaju applied for and was selected to interview for the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR). The Formation of the Committee has been postponed twice but we anticipate a decision after the December 2018 elections.
4. MSW completion: Mr. Maharaju successfully completed a Master's Degree in Social Work from Kakatiya University, his third master's degree. His specialization was in Urban, Rural and Tribal Community Development.
5. VP of IHRC: Mr. Maharaju became Vice President for International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) Telangana State Chapter.

Thank you one and all for your partnership, investment, prayers and support of the children and beneficiaries of Mahima Ministries