ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report 2016

"To look after orphans and widows in their distress"

Mahima Ministries

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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

We are committed to care irrespective of religion, caste, creed or ethnicity, by providing them counseling, food, shelter, clothing, education and medical treatment with a holistic approach. Our community work focuses on providing good drinking water and awareness seminars in rural areas.

Right now we have six facilities where we serve:

1. Mahima Ministries Orphan Home, Ameenpur
2. Mahima Ministries School, Ameenpur
3. Mahima Ministries Orphan Home, Bhadrachalam
4. Home for Destitute, Aged and HIV/AIDS Infected People, Kompally, Vikarabad
5. Community Development Centre, Sidduluru
6. Juvenile Observatory Home, Sangareddy

1. Mahima Ministries Orphan Home, Ameenpur

- The main location for Mahima Ministries is our campus in Ameenpur. At this site there are 55 girls and 69 boys aged 6 years to 18 years. As orphans or abandoned 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. For those of school age, we provide 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 Touche and completed in early 2016. Shortly afterward, Verity Solutions agreed to expand the improvements. The new facility was inaugurated on November 23 and features residential and bathing facilities for each gender on separate floors along with a dining hall and kitchen. All the design and construction work has been supervised and financed by Variety Solutions themselves. Altogether with the new school building, the floor space of the Ameenpur campus now exceeds 15,000 square feet.

- Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members visited the Ameenpur centre in March and July. They made a few suggestions with regarding to maintenance and teaching children about Simple Health Care procedures.
- Teams from several local companies such as Variety Solutions, Deloitte and TCS have visited the campus on weekends to interact with the children through fun activities and educational games.
- Sponsored meals in 2016 totaled 278(can be breakfast, lunch or dinner). Most of these sponsors are individuals and typically correspond with a family celebration such as a child's birthday.
- 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. In March of 2016, 10 boys and 6 girls were placed at the Mahima home during the Muscan Operation conducted in Medak district.
- During this academic year, four Mahima students are preparing for their 10^{th} standard exam. One boy will appear for the intermediate exam this spring while one girl is in the first year of her university degree program.
- 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.

2. Mahima Ministries School at Ameenpur

Three years ago, as the number of children was increasing, we felt the need to have our own school to educate our children on the Mahima Campus itself. 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. 5 of them have Master's degree and 3 of them have a Bachelor of Education degree. Non-teaching staff include 3 administrators, 1 cook and 4 helpers.
- In September the Mandal Education Officer (MEO), visited and examined the school and made a few suggestions. He noted that we need to develop Computer Aided Teaching. We have made good efforts to improve the standards of the school, made Computers with Internet available to the children to use. We are now looking forward to reorganizing the school to expand our range of instruction through the 10th Standard by June of 2017.
- A school library was inaugurated in September, 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. This addition helps to promote literacy and a culture of curiosity and learning.
- Plans for 2017 include setting up a computer lab with internet access and adding a music program for students to learn to play instruments such as the guitar, piano, drums, clarinet and flute.

3. Mahima Ministries Orphan Home at Bhadrachalem

Responding to a sincere request to care for needy tribal children in the remote area of Bhadrachalem, Mahima Ministries started a home here in 2014. The requester, Mr. Eswarrao, has been working in Khammam District for a number of years and has been burdened with the degree of poverty and the absence of capable organizations such as Mahima Ministries. Mr. Eswarrao and 5 more staff members now oversee operations

and care for the 20 children residing here. Our main focus is to reach out to semi-orphans and vulnerable children in this area with high levels of poverty and low levels of literacy. Most of the children here are from the Koya tribe whose parents have little or no education.

Shortly after opening, the state was partitioned with the border very near to Bhadrachalem. Consequently, some of the children from the Telangana side of the border had to leave the home to return to their families.

- In 2016, two boys and one girl joined the home, bringing the total to 20 children.
- All the children go to Zilla Parishad High School at Sitapuram, Andhra Pradesh, located 1 kilometer from the Mahima home.
- There are two 9th standard students who will be taking their board exam in the next academic year.

4. Home for Destitute, Aged and HIV/AIDS Infected People, Kompally, 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 3000 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.

Several campus improvements are needed to provide a better experience for the residents here. This includes more adequate plumbing, room dividers, and video equipment. Additional staff are needed due to Mr. Venkanna's far reaching responsibilities. To prepare for full-time residential staff, better staff quarters are required.

5. Community Development Centre, Sidduluru

The Community Centre at Sidduluru, located in a rural area outside of Vikarabad, is still under development. This site is supervised by Mr. Venkanna. One of the four permanent residents also serves as a caretaker.

Much progress was made in 2016 with campus facilities, services provided and community relations. The ground floor construction made the most progress as we prepared to host a week-long youth camp and training program in April. Two residential rooms were also finished so that outside guests are now able to stay overnight with adequate facilities. In October, first floor pillars and roof slab was added to expand the total space to 2400 square feet. Much work is still pending but we expect to finish this phase of construction by the end of 2017. Other additions planned for 2017 include detached bathroom facilities and a campus entrance suitable for vehicle access and parking.

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.

We plan to expand the water storage capacity before the next dry season begins with a 20,000 liter underground water tank that will connect to the rooftop containers.

- A week-long Youth Camp and Equippers volunteer training was held in April of 2016, the first event held at the newly constructed Community Centre. 25 local children participated enthusiastically. Many of these now attend weekly youth activities organized by Mr. Pandu, who works with our partner agency, Equippers.
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6. 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 7 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 2016, a total of 71 boys stayed at our centre.