



**STICHTING STIEFKINDEREN VAN MOEDER INDIA
STEPCHILDREN OF MOTHER INDIA FOUNDATION
Established 10-06-2001 Chamber of Commerce
Haaglanden 27243778 RSIN number 816328080**

June 2024

Dear friends of Karm Marg ,

Another year has passed and it's high time for our newsletter! In the past year, no one from the board has had the opportunity visit Karm Marg, but that does not mean that we do not have contact with them. We are kept informed through many different means of communication. Anyone who looks at Facebook and Instagram can see that they are very active. They regularly send a digital newsletter and we text and speak with Veena. In this newsletter we would like to tell you about the developments at Karm Marg in general and from the past year in particular. Fortunately, the basic principles remain the same. The children at Karm Marg still receive good care and a safe and loving environment in which to grow. Veena and her team remain committed to three important pillars: health, nutrition and hygiene. But it is the love, involvement and conscientious way of raising children that make Karm Marg such a special place!

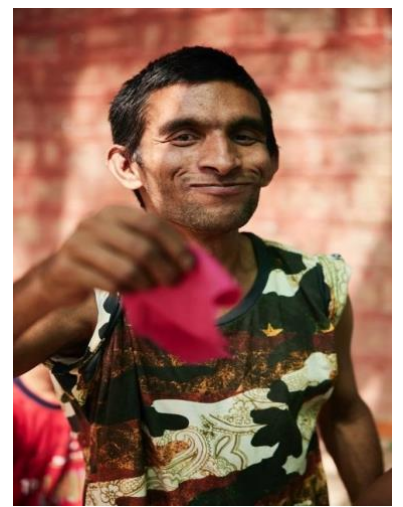
Lows and highs

It is very sad that Mahua and Vijay both passed away, shortly after each other. These two young men moved about a year ago to an institution specialized in caring for adults with disabilities.

This loss is great and painful and has made a deep impression on the children, Veena and her team.



Mahua



Vijay



A high point of the year was Shabila and Shyam 's wedding. Shabila grew up with Karm Marg has been a driving force behind Jugaad 's sewing studio for many years . With friends, family and all the children, it was a big party at Karm Marg. We wish Shabila and Shayam much happiness in this new phase of their lives.



Some Statistics

Last year a total of 93 children lived at Karm Marg. 19 children attended a regular school and 25 followed homeschooling or online classes. There were 7 children with 'special needs' and 15 young people followed vocational trainings (more about this later in the newsletter). 3 young adults found jobs and a place to live on their own. There were also 54 children who only stayed for a short time, the so-called ' short-stay children '. 47 of them were able to return to their families. 366 children and young people from the nearby village took part in various activities.

School

The children are doing well at school! This is certainly due to the efforts of the Karm Marg team who guide the children well, but something new has developed: the older children help the younger ones and their peers by providing extra explanation when doing homework. Karm Marg also collaborates with other organizations who offer enriching activities, for example a fun and playful way to learn mathematics. Online platforms are also used, especially for English.

Vocational training



mela (the playful math method). These are encouraging numbers.

Last year we reported on training courses that were set up to fit modern times. For example, there is baking bread, repairing computers, data analysis, gardening and sewing. Karm Marg works hard to develop these training courses, even though it is not always easy. Finding trainers is difficult. It is ambitious and challenging, but an important priority at Karm Marg .There are now 2 young people training to become bakers, 22 doing the digishola (a digital program for software and hardware knowledge), 3 busy with sewing, 2 with paper bags and screen printing, 2 with gardening and 4 with math-

An interesting extra project is that, in addition to providing good, healthy meals, the kitchen brigade also regularly tries out new recipes in order to develop the children's tastes. Of course, as many fresh ingredients as possible are used from Karm Marg's vegetable garden!

Jugaad

Jugaad is alive and well! It has always been an important pillar within Karm Marg's organization both financially and in terms of activities. The pandemic had made a big dent sales, but all efforts to revive it are working well! Women from the village make the Jugaad products at Karm Marg. Some young adults and short stay children help out. This gives the children structure, something to do and an experience of success because they make a positive contribution.

Spare time



A lot of children have taken up playing Frisbee. They learn the rules of the game and how to compete. There is certainly competition, but fun in playing and exercising predominates. At the Udaan 23 festival, Karm Marg's team played for two days and they won the 'spirit award' for their enthusiasm, cooperation and perseverance!

Karm Marg continues to encourage expression through dance and art as a way to give emotions a good place. In the past year, internal guidance sessions were also organized in the field of 21st century skills, life skills and career development.



After Karm Marg

Children who have become part of the Karm Marg family receive loving care and education. But as happens with all children, there comes a time when they are ready to stand on their own two feet. We wondered how that works at Karm Marg and posed the question to Veena. It turns out that this is actually not that different from when a child from a traditional family moves towards independence. After their education the young people try to find a job. If necessary Karm Marg offers guidance in finding suitable work. The same applies to finding a home of one's own. This can sometimes be very difficult and, if necessary, help is available from Karm Marg. That's what most parents do for their children! This again shows the great responsibility that Veena and her team feel for these children.

Corpus Fund



In addition to working on the future of the children, Karm Marg works on its own future. To ensure financial security, an emergency fund has been set up for unforeseen events and calamities. In India this is called a Corpus Fund. It is possible for our donors to have their donation go in whole or in part to the Corpus Fund. For more information, please send an email to info@scomi.org

Visit to Karm Marg

Although no one from the SCOMI board has visited after Deborah and Steve's visit in February 2023, there are all kinds of plans for the near future. Viviane is preparing a trip to India for the second half of October. She has been on the board for more than a year and was always closely informed by her father Paul, but she has never been there herself. The wish and plan have been there for some time and now it is going to happen: a visit to Karm Marg with her children to see and experience everything--- something to look forward to!

Good News and Save the Date

Good news! Karm Marg is going to visit the Netherlands: Veena will be in the Netherlands between August 23 and September 7. We are organizing an afternoon for SCOMI donors to meet Veena and each other.

Everyone is welcome in Amsterdam on Sunday afternoon, September 1. Let us know by email info@scomi.org if you would like to attend. We will later send an email about the exact time and location.

Your donation helps Karm Marg give children a safe and secure childhood and teach them skills to become independent adults. Continue to help us realize these valuable projects. To all loyal and new donors: thank you very much for your support in 2023. If you would also like to be on our digital mailing list, send an email to info@scomi.org And... if you would like to contribute again in 2024 you can make a transfer to one of the following account numbers.

**NL12 INGB 0008 038194 or NL61 ABNA 0573 771340
in the name of the STIEFKINDEREN VAN MOEDER INDIA
You can also donate via our website:
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