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STICHTING STIEFKINDEREN VAN MOEDER INDIA
STEPCHILDREN OF MOTHER INDIA FOUNDATION

Founded 10-06-2021 Chamber of Commerce Haaglanden 27243788
RSIN number 816328080

May 2026

Dear friends of Karm Marg,

Another year has passed and time for an update. However, there is little news to report from SCOMI. We are doing what we have been doing for years: raising funds for our beloved Karm Marg, that beautiful, lovely place where children can go for whom a home is not a given.

Deborah and Steve visited Karm Marg this year, and their lively report and photos can be seen on the following pages. Of course they engaged with the children, but there was also time to talk with Veena. We do that often on line, but *real life* works better. There is more time and space for a good conversation. Karm Marg is still going strong. Activities begun in recent years, such as the bakery, computer lessons, life skills, and frisbeeing, are still in full swing. Recently, Karm Marg even organized its own frisbee tournament at a sports field in Faridabad!

However, conversations with Veena also reveal that there are often obstacles on the path. The Indian government, with its bureaucratic zeal, does not make it easy for an organization like Karm Marg. Of course, *we* cannot solve these problems from here, but we can offer Veena a listening ear. The fact that we support her, the team, and the children is hopefully a source of encouragement. We wholeheartedly continue doing so.

The board of SCOMI, Viviane, Fons, and Deborah, thanks you for all your support!

Karm Marg February 2026

After skipping a year, Steve and I traveled to India in January 2026. After a couple of weeks in sunny South India, we traveled to Delhi to visit Karm Marg. Although we had told Veena that we could travel from Delhi to Faridabad using the excellent metro connection, she wouldn't hear of it.
So, at 12 o'clock on a busy Friday, she and Islamudin picked us up in Delhi. We stopped on the way to Karm Marg to buy a new water heater. The boiler in the bathroom was broken, and Veena felt that we needed hot water to shower. That was most welcome, as it was quite cold in Faridabad!

By mid-afternoon we arrived at Karm Marg. After greeting and hugging children who still remembered us, we sat down at the table for a delicious lunch:
rice, lentils, and vegetables from Veena's garden. It was Friday afternoon and the children had returned from school. There was enthusiastic frisbeeing and the smaller children were playing all kinds of games.
A little boy asked if Steve wanted to play with him, and that turned into a lively game of Carrom, a kind of Indian billards.

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Raju gets a hug



Anamieke in the kitchen

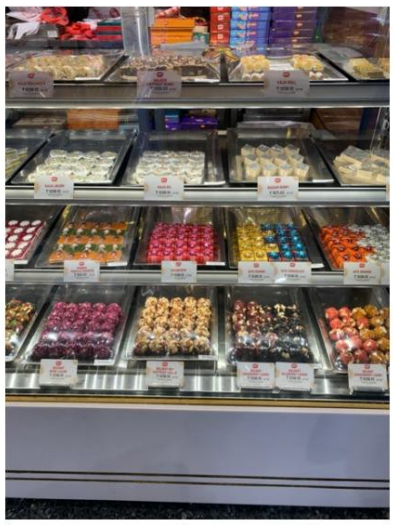


A jar of Carrom

The next day was February 7th, Karm Marg's 29th birthday. "It won't be celebrated on a grand scale," says Veena. "Next year, when we turn 30, we're going to throw a really big party." "But let's at least buy some sweets for the children," Steve and I reply. Veena thinks that's a good idea. "Pooja (Veena's right-hand woman for years) is coming soon, and then we'll go to town to buy something," she says. A little later, Pooja arrived with her 6-month-old daughter. Veena immediately slips into her grandmother role, and we all drive to town. After a nice cup of coffee, we go to a large Indian sweets shop. Pooja orders six kilos (!) and we return to Karm Marg satisfied.



'Grandma' Veena



Deliciously sweet!

When we arrive, preparations for the festive evening are in full swing. Garlands and lanterns are hung and chairs set up. Young adults who still live near Karm Marg arrive: Sohan with her nine-month-old child, Babli, Abishek, Soan, Raju, and Umesh. They all grew up at Karm Marg and now live independently. They have jobs and/or families and return to celebrate Karm Marg's birthday.
A small party after all. A play with a water theme is performed. Children express their thanks to Karm Marg and Veena. And true to tradition, there is wild dan

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Abishek, Soan, Raju, Umesh



Babli and Tara



A young actor



Praise for Karm Marg

Sunday is truly a day of rest at Karm Marg. No one need rush to school and Veena has no meetings: a day to sit in Veena's garden and talk. Veena explains that some things are becoming quite difficult: the government has more and more demands and rules. Also, more and more children are being brought in for short stays. If the parents are found, these children must return home. Veena and her staff do not have the time to build a relationship with these children. And they can be disruptive to the sense of family that the children who actually live at Karm Marg have developed.

We had already noticed that a long white fence runs straight across the grounds. This is due to a government policy to keep the boys and girls separated at night. A door in the dormitory building has been bricked up. None of this aligns with the ideals of Karm Marg. Veena would like a less rigid separation between the children and is in discussions with her board as how to best handle this. She will tell us more about this later this year.

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Papayas in the garden



Fence



What is Karm Marg

Monday morning: Karm Marg is bustling with activity once again. Many children go to school in the morning, and others receive education at home, at Karm Marg. The needlework ladies from the nearby village have arrived, and children staying for a short time follow needlework lessons.
Raju gives us a tour of the bakery, unfortunately without children, but it looks increasingly professional. Raju is very proud of the new refrigerator and his posted baking instructions are very clear.

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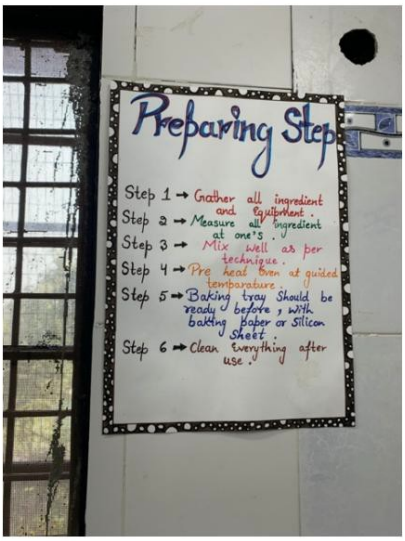
Home schooling



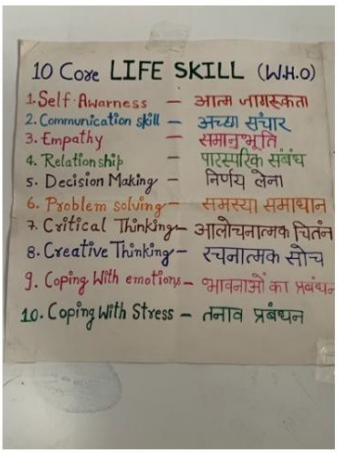
Raju with the new fridge



Bakery instructions

We have a conversation with the woman who runs the life-skills workshop for Karm Marg children and children from schools in the neighborhood. There is no workshop today, but she shows us a poster with the goals of the workshop (see photo). The Karm Marg children return from school in the early afternoon. They change from their school uniforms into T-shirts and jeans. Two workshops are being held this afternoon: frisbee and computer skills. When the frisbee coach arrives, a group of older children immediately gathers around him and trains fanatically. We are impressed by the young coach, who focuses not only on physical training but also on cooperation and fairness. The computer lesson is less lively, but comes to life when the teacher explains the basics of working with a computer. Later in the afternoon, we are interviewed for a film about 30 years of Karm Marg. It is fun to tell a boy who wasn't yet born at that time how Karm Marg started and our experience during all those years.

I am very curious about the result and looking forward to the 30th anniversary!



Life Skills



Frisbee



Computer lesson

To all loyal and new donors: thank you very much for your support in 2025. Your donation helps the Karm Marg children have a secure and safe childhood. Please continue to help us! And if you would like to contribute again in 2026, you can do so to bank account number:

NL12 INGB 0008 038194 or NL61 ABNA 0573 771340 in the name of Stichting Stiefkinderen van Moeder India.

You can also donate via our website: www.scomi.org