Share the Power of a Wish

It has been an eventful few months at the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India. Our family of corporate supporters has grown with some esteemed organisations that have generously sponsored in-kind wish fulfillments. As always many generous individual donors have adopted wishes. Various organisations lent us their support in enhancing wish fulfillments, and celebrities, as always, gave their valuable time to share a special moment with a wish child.

We would like to thank all our supporters for their commitment in bringing smiles to children with life-threatening illnesses around the country. These generous partners bring before wish children light during a time of darkness and joy in place of pain. Thank you for all you do! Wishes could not come true without you!

Run for a Wish

The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) 07’ witnessed 57 Make-A-Wish volunteers, staff members and supporters participating in the 6 km Dream Run on January 21, 2007, endorsing one of the most unique causes – of granting the innermost wishes of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. The group was led by the Founder Trustee Mr. Uday Joshi and his wife Mrs. Gita Joshi. Encouraging Make-A-Wish Foundation’s 1st attempt at the Marathon, were three well-known names - Ms. Rakshanda Khan, Mr. Ranvir Shorey and Mr. Rajat Kapoor. Though Mr. Kapoor could not join the team on the race day due to prior commitments, he wished the team well beforehand.

Commenting on the occasion, Founder Trustee - Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India, Mr. Uday Joshi enthused, “We are very excited about being a part of this world renowned event. We invite more and more people to come forward and be a part of our unique cause and help us spread smiles on the faces of many more children.” On that note, the race commenced.

Considering the Foundation’s first brush with the annual run, SCMM 07’ helped in awareness generation when Ms. Khan was interviewed live on Camera regarding the cause she was running for. The event proved to be a successful tool in raising nearly Rs6.5 lacs with the generous support of kind donors, supporters and volunteers. Special mention needs to be made of Mr. Amit Goela who has been supporting our cause for a while and in this Marathon single-handedly raised highest amount of pledge money. Our heartfelt thanks to all our well-wishers and supporters without whose concerted effort SCMM07’ would not be a success!!!

[Special thanks to our other pledge raisers – Ms. Niloo Doshi and group, Dr. Soonnu Balsara, Mrs. Phiroza Abraham, Mrs. Sushma Shenai, Mrs. Nirupama Ghelani, Mrs. Jyoti Shah, Sunita Katra, Usha Mansoor, Aditya Patel, Varun Joshi, Karan Thakkar and several others whose names might not be mentioned here but without whom the participation and the event would be meaningless.]

Disney Share their Power

Makar Sankranti with its festive charm and colorful kite-flying overhead, marked the beginning of a fortnight long tour of Walt Disney Company (India) Pvt. Limited across the country when JETIX LIVE Power Rangers Dinathunder hit the roads of 6 mega cities – Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad between January 14 and 31, 2007. As part of the Disney Worldwide Outreach initiative in India, our Foundation, which has divisions in 4 of the aforementioned cities invited MAWF, to be part of the show. It was a 30 minute long action packed entertainment show when the Red, Yellow, Blue and Black Rangers trained our children, the various tactics of defense. In order to take back a “powerful” experience, each child was certified a “Power Ranger”. The social message given to the young impressionable minds was “defend yourself and protect the helpless”. It was a fun-filled experience, which left the children craving for more. Our heartfelt and special thanks to Sesho and Pooja from Disney for having given our children this great opportunity and we look forward to drive more such events together.
**Dolls for a Doll Screening of Barbie’s latest blockbuster movie, “Barbie in the 12 Dancing Princesses”**

An evening of excitement, joy & giggles was organized by Mattel Toys (I) Pvt. Ltd. on the 14th of November, which coincided with Children’s Day for the screening of Barbie’s latest blockbuster movie, “Barbie in the 12 Dancing Princesses”. The movie portrayed Barbie and her sister’s love for dance, team spirit, togetherness and art. The film showed little girls, the importance of togetherness and team spirit and conveyed the beautiful message that one can make a difference, no matter how small or big.

Wish children from Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India were also invited to this special screening. Mr. Sanjay Luthra, Managing Director, Mattel Toys (I) Pvt Ltd., greeted the children and presented them with complimentary passes for the show. Each child was also presented with a beautiful Barbie Memento after the movie was over. Mattel Toys (I) Pvt Ltd., in addition, presented a collection of Barbie Products to Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India.

**National Office**

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**Flagging off Diwali with Fun and Fiesta**

This Diwali, Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India shared their lights and celebrations with High Street Phoenix and Red FM. The Diwali fiesta commenced on the 21st of October and continued till the 24th of October. The four auspicious days of the festive season were filled with tons of activities, games, and prizes for the shoppers and visitors to the mall.

As part of the celebrations, High Street Phoenix dedicated a section of its Courtyard for the children of Make A Wish Foundation® of India. Here shoppers could buy a diya to light in their homes, along with a sticker diya where they were encouraged to write a message, symbolic of their contribution to the cause and wishes for the children of Make A Wish Foundation® of India. Also as a part of this activity, each shopper who purchased a diya was made to participate in games, where they could win exciting prizes.

On the closing day of the Diwali Fiesta 2006, High Street Phoenix invited the children of Make-A-Wish Foundation for an evening filled with loads of performances, activities and gifts. The evening began with a lovely Diya Dance, followed by sizzling Guitarist performance and some special performances by the children of Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India. At this special occasion High Street Phoenix sponsored the wishes of 15 children. 93.5 Red FM, the Radio partner for the event not only enabled spreading the message of charity among the listeners, but also fulfilled wishes of 13 children. Mr. Ashok Ruia, Managing Director of Phoenix Mills Ltd. and Malishka, the famous RJ from Red FM handed out the wish gifts to the children.

As a symbol of gratitude the Founder trustee of Make A Wish Foundation® of India, Mr Uday Joshi and Mrs Geeta Joshi presented a memento painted by our wish child, Mamta Mistry.

(A special thanks to the team of Two Hands Events, Radhika Mehta, Llewelyn D’Mello and Ritika Arya for giving this opportunity to us, and for making this Diwali a truly memorable experience for the our wish children).

**National Office**

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**NCR Corporation celebrates Diwali with Make-A-Wish**

The Teradata team at NCR Corp India Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India shared the power of a wish® this Diwali on October 19, 2006 when the employees at Teradata sponsored the wish fulfillment of 14 of our wish kids. Wishes ranged from Mobile phone to Carrom Board, Dolls, and Remote Controlled Cars etc. It was a fun-filled afternoon with emotions flowing abound when our children went on stage and narrated what wish fulfillment meant to them. In addition, the Terradata team had organized lunch and refreshments not only for the children but also the accompanying parents. Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India thanks Ms. Veena D’Silva, Manager – Human Resources and the entire Teradata team for making this event a grand success!!!
Concerned Communicator Award was instituted in 1997 by Rajasthan Patrika, one of India’s most respected newspaper group, well known for their corporate responsibility and social initiatives.

Concerned Communicator Award is a social advertising award, which invites advertising professionals to create an advertisement based on any social issue that they feel for - be it Cancer Care, Child welfare, Anti-smoking, or any thing of the like. One such ad is given below:

This year, Concerned Communicator Award is supported by many like-minded organizations such as ‘Make A Wish Foundation® of India’. As part of the award ceremony, 5 wishes worth Rs25,000 from the “to have” category (the gift wishes of children) will be sponsored and will be granted on stage during the Event in accordance with the Policies and Guidelines of Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India.

‘Make A Wish Foundation® of India’ embodies concern and care, which are the main objectives of Concerned Communicator Award.

This year the awards are scheduled to be held by March end or April. You are invited to participate. The advertisement is to be made in the size of 500 sq cm. There is no entry fee. Best fifty entries would be printed in a booklet; there are 10 special mentions, who shall be awarded certificates. The winner gets to win a cash award. Cash Awards are for USD10,000/-. 

For further details, log on to www.rajasthanpatrika.com/cca or contact: Mr. Ajay Datta, Rajasthan Patrika, Concerned Communicator Award, 0141-5106822, 9828289455.

In yet another commendable instance of support to our cause, GoAir helped us fulfill the wishes of two of our wish kids by sponsoring their air travel. The excitement and happiness that Akshaya (one of the wish children) felt can be witnessed in the photograph given below.
Preity shares her dimples
Saipadmamalini is a die-hard fan of Priety Zinta’s dimples and dances. She has seen all the films in which the bubbly actress has acted and always had a burning fire in her heart of meeting her favourite star. The meeting with Priety Zinta was arranged at Filmcity where Priety Zinta had a song sequence to be shot. When Priety met the wish child, she made her comfortable in no time. It was like a meeting of two fast friends after a long time. Saipadmamalini gave Ms. Zinta a gift that she had brought along with her.

Soon after Priety Zinta went on the stage and arranged for Padmamalini to sit in the first row from where she could get an un-obstructed view of the entire stage. When the dance performance began, Saipadamalini swayed to the rhythm of music and clapped to the tune of the song. Whenever Priety would finish one shot, she would come back and speak to the wish-child. Priety spent a long time chatting with the child and before leaving she gave her a warm hug and kissed her. That was the most memorable moment for all of us present and our hearts overflowed with joy when we saw the smiles on Padamalini’s face.

Similar was the story of our wish child Hetvi, a 13 years old girl, who was always found accompanied by her parents. She seemed to be a contended girl, who did not want anything from anybody. Even though her illness had affected her eyesight she was very fond of Priety Zinta movies which she would hear and then visualize the story in her mind. Naturally, her cherished wish was to meet Priety Zinta. On the chosen-day, Hetvi accompanied by her cousin sister went to meet Ms. Zinta at her office. After the initial introductions got over, Priety spent more than an hour sitting next to Hetvi holding her hand enquiring about Hetvi’s health, her schedule, her hospital visits, her diet and few other things. In between, Priety shared her health tips and her diet regime with Hetvi. This actress-par-excellence has a unique and rare quality of making her fans comfortable in the first few minutes of meeting her. In spite of her busy schedule, Ms. Zinta was very grateful for having spent her valuable time with Hetvi to make her wish come true and become a memorable experience.

The Young Cop
Mahak, a shy and a reserved boy, took some time to open up. Though he was a little hesitant in the initial meetings, he had a strong mind. When asked for a wish, he quickly expressed that he wanted to become a police officer. He wanted to have a gun and catch thieves.

31st October 2006, was a usual day for Mahak, as he came back from school. It came as a real surprise for Mahak when volunteers from Make-A-Wish Foundation* of India reached Mahak’s home with the uniform and all the accessories that was arranged by Jubilee Hills Police Station. Mahak took a moment to settle into this feeling and then we had him donning the role of a confident Inspector, with his uniform, cap, belt, badges, etc. Each one of these added to his boost.

It was indeed a busy day for the young cop! Mahak was invited for tea with Inspector General, Welfare. Post which he had an appointment with the Director General of Police of Andhra Pradesh. All the time Mahak was unfazed. He waited silently sponging in every minute as he reveled in the attention he got.

Over tea with the IG Mahak got familiar with an unloaded gun while he aspired to catch thieves using his newly acquired knowledge. Mahak was then introduced to the DGP, and other top official of the state. Inspector Mahak was then posted as the Station in charge of one of the most sought after police stations – Jubilee Hills.

Like a dedicated police inspector, Mahak soon reported to duty at the Jubilee Hills Police station. The Circle Inspector was kind enough to provide his patrol vehicle, his cabin and seat to his new and youngest colleague. Mahak was welcomed by the DCP. It was such an overwhelming experience to have the armed salute given to him and as he took the seat, a mock thief (enacted by a police man) was brought and he was questioned by Mahak and reprimanded in the police custody. He was then shown the different kinds of weapons in the police station and explained the role of an inspector. Mahak was so happy and confident that we ourselves were impressed to see him handle the role so well.

A DAY TO REMEMBER
The First Anniversary of the Jaipur Division of Make-A-Wish Foundation* of India was celebrated on 2nd November 2006, in a unique way. All the Volunteers organized an afternoon of fun, frolic, games and revelry for approximately 40 children. Other members of the Make-A-Wish family were also present, like doctors, donors and volunteers.

The hospital premise was transformed into a festive junction, with inviting foot tapping music and colourful, bright balloons. To add colour to the children’s high spirits, a volunteer painted their cheeks with attractive tattoos. Each one of them was given a colouring kit. After refreshments, the programme started with a beautiful poem composed by the first “Wish Child” of the Jaipur Division – Vipul Bhatia. He got a standing ovation for expressing his feelings so poignantly. He presented a framed copy of his poem to Make-A-Wish Foundation* of India as a momento, which was greatly appreciated by all. The highlight was a special and exciting magic show by Shri Rajendraji Meena that was tremendously enjoyed by every one.

Thanks to our donors, we were also able to fulfill eight wishes on this special occasion. The wishes included cycles, video games, cricket sets, a sewing machine and a pedal car. The sparkle of happiness in the children’s eyes was the biggest reward for our volunteers. Congratulations to Jaipur division! Hope you bring smiles to many more children.

*Make-A-Wish Foundation of India (Jaipur Division)

(Laxmi Jayraman (Volunteer, Mumbai Division))

(Hyderabad Division)

Hyatt

We thank Hyatt group of hotels for having taken their first step towards formalizing the global tie up, whereby the Hyatt group of hotels have pledged to support various Make A Wish affiliates across the world. The Hyatt Regency Delhi celebrated their Diwali with our Foundation while Park Hyatt Goa and Hyatt Regency Mumbai sponsored the wishes of two of our wish children, Muskan and Kashika respectively. Below is a card that expresses Muskan’s sentiments and appreciations.

The Dream Box at Hyatt

Hyatt Regency in Delhi and the Delhi Division of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India celebrated their symbiotic relationship in October, amidst the lights of the Diwali festivities in the capital.

During the evenings in the week leading up to Diwali, the hotel offered the Foundation a strategic space in their lobby and loaned them an antique treasure chest. Our volunteers transformed the chest into a magical and glittering sight with striking signage reading: “Diwali Dream Box...Make a wish come true this Diwali!”

This box symbolised a cherished and a magical tradition. Like the wishing wells and magical lakes and dream boxes we have all heard of and perhaps seen...ours too was one believed to have the power to make a heartfelt wish come true.

Guests made their wishes by purchasing specially designed coins...they silently expressed their wishes by releasing them into the dream box. Hyatt Regency graced us with the gift voucher for a dinner for two of the among who purchased a coin with the winning coins being selected via a lucky draw. It was conveyed to the guests that their donation was going towards the realisation of our beautiful mission and as their support was so meaningful and precious, the powers that be would surely set in motion the realisation of the wishes that they made.

Not only were many coins bought, but wishes were adopted as well...one little girl is going to get the pink fairy dress she dreamt of, another a cherished trip to the zoo, a little boy would get the video game he is passionate about and another the DVD player he has a heartfelt desire for. The Diwali Dream Box bound generations and nations. Our youngest coin buyer was a girl who was about 10 years old and the oldest a gentleman in his late sixties. Some of our supporters became acquainted with our mission for the first time, such as a man who was so moved that he donated what he had in hand-U.S. dollars. One of our coin buyers was from Holland, and she volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation there. She told the volunteers at the stall that they do similar fundraising exercises there and then prompted her friend to buy a coin as well!!

Similar activities were also carried out during the staff parties. For 2 evenings, Make-A-Wish volunteers shared with the staff members and their guests, information about foundation. We gained supporters in the form of more coin buyers here as well. One of the chefs, who was in fact on duty during the time, got very inspired by our mission and took it upon himself to route as many people as he could to our stall to express support. Senior members of the Hyatt staff drew 3 lucky coins at the end of the second evening and gave the winners prizes.

Muskan says thank you

Delhi Division
**Bipasha Basu adds us to her website**

Actress Bipasha Basu recently launched her new website, http://bipashabasunet.com with regular updates on her life. The special feature of this site is an auction site, where she has committed to give away few of her items and belongings every month and the proceeds from the sale will directly be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of India. She has been associated with the Foundation for 2 years and has donated generously in the past as well. Thank you Ms. Basu! We wish you success in everything you do.

**Adding voice to Wishes**

The recently launched Adlabs Films’ BIG 92.7 FM invited staff member, Sudeshna Mukherjee and former wish child Shobhit Kaushal from Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India to be part of the show “Big Chai with Vrajesh Hirjee” between 8 and 9 am on January 04, 2007 for a live coverage on the Foundation and its work. Mr. Hirjee discussed with the staff, aspects like mission, how it was started, beneficiary reach etc. The chat show, in addition, showcased few unique wish stories and ended with the various ways by which the larger community could lend support to the Foundation. The theme for that day’s show was “neki kar dariya mein daal” when the masses were urged to do their bit in giving back to the society. The show helped in awareness generation and giving our cause a voice.

Footnote: We are grateful to Mr. Sameer Joshi, Ms. Bhavna Chand and popular actor Mr. Vrajesh Hirjee for giving our cause a platform to reach out to the masses.

**Imran Khan and NDTV India bring smiles** *(Mumbai Division)*

During his visit to India, Imran Khan also spent some time with four children of Make-A-Wish Foundation of India. Not only did they talk about cricket, food, games, but the children also celebrated Mr. Khan’s birthday by cutting a cake. On this special occasion NDTV India sponsored the wishes of four children.

Every time you buy a product from The Make-A-Wish Foundation of India, you endorse the world’s most unique cause. Please order some today for yourself, your friends and even as a company giveaways at your work place.

We have a wide range of colourfull jute bags, sling bags, t-shirts, pens, caps and wish bands.

**CONTACT US:**

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