



One!

International Poverty Relief

2008 Annual Report

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Mission, Vision and Value Statements

Our Mission:

To teach literacy skills to children living in the slums of Mumbai (Bombay), India, including reading, writing, and numeracy skills, so that they are better prepared through gaining the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to achieve his or her potential to become responsible members of society.



Our Vision:

Improve the future of impoverished children and youth in Mumbai (Bombay).

Establish programs that aim to strengthen families and prevent the abandonment of children.

Provide children with basic living needs through trust, respect, integrity, commitment, and caring.

Help children recognize and express their abilities, interests and talents.



Our Values:

We believe that education is an inherent right and the key to freedom through breaking the cycle of poverty.

We believe in peace, non-violence, frugality, simplicity, honesty.



Our Goal:

Maximize the benefits for the street children of Mumbai while minimizing administrative spending.

A Message from the President

2008 proved to be a year of personal growth and accomplishments that expanded beyond my wildest dreams. The most emotionally challenging - was literally saving the life of a child. For five months, we struggled to keep a little girl named Parvati alive. We were successful and have given her hope, for a 'normal' life.

Another major accomplishment is the continual growth of the Nallasopara School – having both the quantitative (over 130 students registered in July) and qualitative (better teachers, broader subjects, more stability and efficiency) results than we were hoping for. Registering Sunil (one of our students in the Khar School) for his Grade 10 Exams (graduation) was another great accomplishment. Through his example, we found a way motivate our children and give them an education, at the same time recognizing them for the hard work involved.

Our team in India has increased due to the hiring of new and dedicated staff. Throughout the year we were making changes and adjustments to find the 'right' people for the job. Finally in November, everything just clicked and the mix of personalities and passions and work styles seems to be just right. The staff is much more efficient and able to work together, thereby simplifying, in addition to multiplying their efforts.

The Fundraising and Marketing team in Edmonton, Canada has become a very strong and determined entity. The members are clearly dedicated to the cause of *One!* and working hard to allow it to grow as much as possible. They bring a spirit of love and passion to everything they do and will without a doubt be successful in the years to come. They are vital to the organization and have increased our capacity exponentially with their new ideas and sheer hard-work.

Volunteers in India are a vital part of the schools as they bring with them fresh energy and ideas. They are without a doubt, the catalyst that allows the staff and the children to reach their potentials. Volunteers in India work predominantly in the area of teaching, I feel that it would be fantastic to broaden their scope to fit within the big picture of the work we do. We need volunteers in India to assist on an administrative, medical, and social work basis.

Volunteers in Canada keep us going both financially and administratively and they are the link that brings the spirit of *One!* to its supporters and donors. We need more volunteers in Canada on a day-to-day level, doing the mundane things that aren't always fun, but rewarding all the same. There is room for growth in volunteering in both Canada and India. As the number of children we reach increases, so too does the need for volunteers.





Personal highlights this year can best be described with 'perseverance' and 'decision making'. It was a very difficult year and I was faced with questions that were very tough to answer. "How much do you spend on one child?" "What is the limit?" "How much time is too much?" "How much do you sacrifice for one and risk taking away from the others?" and more. Upon reflection with others, the best solutions became apparent. A clear understanding opened a debate which allowed the organization to set policies, goals and limits. I was very proud of myself for having the skills to persevere and am proud of the decisions that were made.

My experience in India to date has taught me how to relax and to take life as it comes, living each day to its absolute fullest. I suspect that there are still many more lessons still to be learned and I look forward to each of them. We have accomplished so much over the past seven years and *One!* has grown at an incredible pace. My goals have always been ambitious and I am proud of the many incredible things we have accomplished along the way.

In the near future we will further explore partnerships that we already have (Children's Hope India, schools and businesses in our community) and we look forward to building new ones. I close this report with continued grateful thoughts about the many people all over the world who help to make my dream a reality through their faithful support in every way.

Tania Spilchen, Founder and President
One! International Mumbai, India



Who We Are

One! International is a humanitarian organization committed to providing the impoverished people in Mumbai (Bombay) India with the tools, knowledge and opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

One! International is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-denominational, non-political international organization. The education of street children is our main focus.

In addition to the challenge of providing basic education, concurrent problems which must be addressed are nutrition, medical attention, family and societal problems faced by women, and abusive men.

One! had ten permanent employees in India during 2008, plus 8 part time employees, numerous volunteers in India and in Canada, a Board of Directors/Management Team, and an active Fundraising/Marketing Committee.

Our long term goals directly support the mission of *One!* International through education, which means building the foundations of a sound future. The ongoing tasks and spin-off benefits are well-known: breaking the cycle of begging; promoting good nutrition and health, encouraging change; defending the rights of women; promoting school attendance; and learning from the children themselves.

One! International has a far-reaching goal to educate/inform North American children about their counterparts in other parts of the world, particularly in Mumbai, India. Our world is becoming a very small globe and if we are to live in harmony we need to understand and appreciate the aims and aspirations of people from other countries.

We are very lucky in North America to have bountiful benefits. It is our hope that students here in North America develop a more balanced view of the world, as well as a sense of appreciation by experiencing and learning about another country. Through having a tie to an organization such as *One!* International, North American students will have an opportunity to develop this deep sense of appreciation and satisfaction in being able to help an Indian child gain educational success.



Further, it is hoped that compassion will result for those majority world peoples who lack the basic human needs which those in the minority or the 'developed world' take for granted.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors/ Management Team is maintained to ensure that the direction of *One!* International remains focused and positive for improving the future of the children, women, and families in Mumbai, India. The Board is the 'voice' of all the donors and financial supporters. All major decisions, in terms of the administration of *One!* (accommodation, transportation, communication, advertising, public relations) are passed to the Board and must be accepted by the majority of members. The hope is to maintain the 'human factor' and the credibility of the organization through the people that are represented by the Board.

The Board is a working Board, responsible for overall guidance of the organization. The legal responsibilities of the Board are to ensure that all activities of *One!* International complies with the rules and regulations pertinent to charitable activities in the province of Alberta, Canada and India.

- Tania Spilchen, President / Founder, Director
- Gordon Sustrik. Legal / Secretary, Director
- Colleen Woltjen, Director
- Other Management Officials
 - Marilyn Spilchen, Canadian Coordinator
 - Julie Hawkins, Marketing/Fundraising Committee
 - Tara Woltjen, Public Relations



Fundraising & Marketing Committee

The Fundraising & Marketing Committee is a volunteer based operational committee which exists to provide overall guidance and direction for the marketing, fund-raising, sponsorship and promotion of One! International.

This committee meets on a regular monthly basis and as required. During 2008, this hardworking group of dedicated people, were instrumental in planning the First Annual Gala Fundraiser held in January of 2009.

The Committee:

- provides expert advice to the President, Board of Directors and Canadian Coordinator as required;
- provides suggestions in the areas of sponsorship, fund-raising and promotion; and
- organize, plan and carry out the annual Gala Fundraiser

Members include:

- Marilyn Spilchen
- Helen Arnott
- Chris_Beaudette-Hodsman
- Patrick Cadieux
- Amy Colquhoun
- Julie Hawkins
- Alex Lieberman
- Alysha Lust
- Erica Viegas



Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2008

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$14,350
Accounts Receivable	3,067
Micro Loans Receivable	3,529
Prepaid Rent	<u>5,597</u>
	\$26,543

Equipment \$1,410

Total Assets **\$27,953**

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable \$0

Total Liabilities **\$0**

EQUITY

Net assets invested in equipment \$1,410

Unrestricted net assets \$26,543

Total Equity **\$27,953**

Total Liabilities and Equity **\$27,953**



- 2008 Mumbai population approx 23 Million
- Approx 60% of Mumbai's population lives in slums
- India's population of approximately 1.17 billion comprises approximately one-sixth of the world's population
- 44 percent of India's labor force is illiterate
- 45 percent of India's children are underweight and 70 percent are anemic.
- India has the largest population of street children – est. more than 11 million.

Source: World Development Indicators 2008, NFHS 3 2005-06, and World Bank's 'India at a Glance'

Statement of Operations

December 31, 2008

REVENUE

Give a child a chance—sponsorship program	\$19,707
Donations	57,257
Fundraising	5,278
	<hr/>
	\$82,242

EXPENSES

Travel & transportation	\$22,955
Rent and occupancy costs	15,034
Wages	22,148
Communication	1,529
Fundraising	863
Books and supplies	1,584
Office	3,912
Children's Promotional Projects	7,540
Children's Nutrition Program & Medicines	10,643
Amortization of Assets	604
Loss on disposal of computer	0
Loss on Microloans & Theft	927
Utilities and internet	743
Bank charges	476
	<hr/>
	\$88,958

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year **\$(6,716)**



Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008

The Taj Hotel in Mumbai was stormed by teams of heavily armed gunmen at the luxury hotel and other sites in coordinated attacks across India's financial capital, killing at least 82 people and taking westerners hostage.

Source: World Development Indicators 2008, NFHS 3 2005-06, and World Bank's 'India at a Glance'

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

	Invested in Equipment	Unrestricted	Total
Balance beginning of period	\$2,014	\$32,655	\$34,669
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	\$(6,716)	\$(6,716)
Non cash item—amortization	(604)	604	0
Net Investment in equipment	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0
Balance end of period	\$1,410	\$26,543	\$27,953

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash provided by (used in)

Operating Activities

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year \$(6,716)

Items not affecting cash:

Amortization of Equipment 604

Loss on the disposal of equipment n/a

\$(6,112)

Changes in non-cash working capital

(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable 484

(Increase)/Decrease in Micro Loans Receivable (472)

(Increase)/Decrease in Prepaid rent and travel 5,917

(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Payable n/a

5,929

Cash flow from operating activities \$(183)

Investing Activities

Purchase of Equipment n/a

Increase/(Decrease) in Cash **\$(183)**

Cash beginning of period \$14,533

Cash end of period **\$14,350**

2008 – Khar Danda Report

- The health of the children and families suffered, as temperatures in Mumbai hit an all-time low over the winter months and the chill stayed unpredictably into the middle of February. Staff was falling sick constantly and we have never had as many trips to the doctor's office. By the end of March we seemed to have recovered and were back to regular activities.
- Dilshaad (15) after countless visits to the doctors, many sonographies, and other tests, fully recovered from her tumour.
- Staff Development activities started with the staff at both schools. The teachers and social workers got together at the Khar school. Teambuilding exercises brought the teams closer together; professional teaching and social work skills were improved.
- One of the Mumbai volunteers, Angelica, is teaching Excel, Word and other programs. Computer skills are needed by everyone in business and commerce. We hope that teachers and social workers will teach computer skills in future so they will be fluent in computer technology.
- Our landlord at the Khar School has had a change of heart and wants to continue having us as tenants. He now supports us in whatever way he can and often convinces the neighbours to put up with any inconveniences because the children need the work we do. He has also agreed to have Parvati, Malesh and one of our *One!* families live in the school after hours. This helps tremendously by saving on rent and provides the families with the stability they need. We look forward to more years of working together to make a difference in Khar Danda and surrounding areas.



2008 – Nallasopara Report



- Annual Program #7 - seven years of history for *One!*, seven years of history in Khar - and the beginning of a new chapter in the history books for Nallasopara school. It was quite a special event having both schools performing together — the veterans of the Khar school cheering on the ‘freshmen’ of the Nallasopara school. It was such a pleasure to see the new light of pride in the eyes of the Nallasopara parents at seeing what their children could do. Overall, the event had over 150 children, over 100 parents and many guests to round out the number to almost 300 performers, staff and others present.

- Registration day in Nallasopara was a great success on July 14th. We registered over 110 children and had a waiting list with 30 more names!
- Bi-Annual survey was conducted in both Juhu Koliwada and Nallasopara. In Nallasopara they found out that the scope for our work in the community is nearly limitless. The surveyors met over 50 new families, gathering information about the common family problems in the area, including medical issues. Most of the families complained about inadequate education and amenities. Common family problems were spousal and child abuse and alcoholism. We also found that though a lot of the families were starting their children off in school at a young age, they were getting pulled out before they reached 7th grade.
- September we hired two new teachers, one with years of experience and one with new energy. Esperance is originally from Goa and has been in the education field for over twenty years. She has taught in informal primary schools but has most of her experience tutoring. Reema is fresh out of school and learning every day. She clearly has a huge heart and seems to like connecting with the children individually. Both add to our multi-ethnic group which makes discussions exciting and helps to keep our staff open-minded.
- Throughout the monsoons and because of some staff troubles, Nallasopara attendance and momentum suffered. Attendance was low as 50 at times. Our volunteers tried to keep it together, but were struggling. Vinita’s magic touch was exactly what was needed. Within two weeks, the parents and children gained confidence in us again and were back regularly. By the end of November, there were over 80 children arriving for classes every day! Not only were the numbers high, but so too was the enthusiasm. The new staff were accepted and brought in as family quickly. The boys especially love Vikas’ exercise classes and the older students love Vijay’s English tutoring.

2008 – Quarterly Performance Report

January – March

- Emma organized a first-ever Wake-A-Thon for charity (*One!* International) at Salisbury Composite high school in Edmonton, for Feb. 1-2, 2008. This is the same high school that Tania attended for three years. The event raised \$3000, noting that they have surpassed their original goal of raising \$500. Dollars raised will go towards buying books, teacher fees and other worthy causes.
- Wes Hosford Elementary school took an active role in 2008 to see to it that *One!* International strives to make its mark in the slums of Mumbai. The elementary school donates money, supplies and encouragement to the *One!* International team.
- Restructure of loan program. We created a system that not only gave our families limits, timelines, and procedures, but also gave them a better sense of community and more involvement. The selection committee then decided who (if anyone) will be approved for a loan and for how much. We were very happy with the acceptance of the new system and how well the families worked together and were involved in the selections.



April - June

- In May, *One!* held its first “gift bag packing day” which involved the families. This semester we decided to have a bit of a rummage sale—except without money. Items include: clothes, shoes, paper, pens, hair ties, balls, toys, sweets. Each family had a certain number of items to take according to number of kids, attendance and other factors. We were pleasantly surprised when everyone waited patiently and ‘shopped’ peacefully. A true symbol of change.
- Exam time. Our teachers put extra care in making their exams and our students put extra care in writing them, many marks in the 90’s. It is exciting to see the English skills of all of our students increasing at a faster rate and at younger ages.
- The children from both schools enjoyed their 4th Bi-Annual Sports Day in May. The children competed for individual honours. In the afternoon each school house competed for top honours and a movie day. It was great to see students, volunteers and teachers all competing together through sportsmanship and love, with great community spirit.

July - September

- Identification. The struggle to attain ration cards and birth certificates for our children and families continues. Social Worker / Teacher Anil, attends monthly meetings of an NGO whose main focus is in this area. He has built a great relationship with them and is hopeful that our clients' needs will be addressed within the next few meetings.
- In Juhu Koliwada, the team had similar successes. They did second interviews / surveys for families that already had a presence in the *One!* school and were able to delve further into each family's situation. We found over 50 new families in the area, however the bad weather hit and the families were not ready to make the dangerous hike across the slough/swamp in order to get their children to school.
- Birth of a Gala event. In July 2008 the Fundraising/Marketing committee in Canada undertook the challenge of hosting our first Annual Gala, a formal event for 300 people. This initial attempt increased the local support network and gave more people the opportunity to be involved with the incredibly successful work in Mumbai.

October – December

- The terrorist attacks forced us to close both schools for one and a half days. We vowed not to let it stop us though. In the end, the program was slightly subdued and many of the young children were unable to attend due to their parents fears.
- We lost three and gained four teachers and are very happy to bring to the team four new and energetic teachers.



Partners

A) Alliance for Youth Achievement Inc. (AYA)

AYA is a small American non-profit organization that raises money for orphans and street children around the world. They focus on smaller programs that would fall below the scope of groups such as UNICEF and World Vision, but which are run from the heart and where a little money will make a big difference in the lives of the children.

In June 2008, we received the following notice from AYA.

“AYA has been going through a major restructuring process. As you know we are a very small organization that is dependent on individual donations to keep us running. We also operate with very little support in our office.....

Through an agonizing decision process we have decided to suspend all sponsorships and cease partnerships with all organizations outside of Africa. We will continue to raise funds for some projects in Africa. This will be done on a strictly voluntary basis by myself and a few other volunteers that have a specific focus in Africa. I know that the needs are tremendous everywhere, but we decided to continue some form of support for African partners because they are our poorest and most desperate partners and have no other means of support or resources to raise money.”

One! is pleased to have had the support of AYA for as long as we have. We understand completely the agony of making the decision they have, but support them in it. We are glad they will be able to continue their work in Africa were the need is tremendous.



B) **Children's Hope (India) Inc.**

Children's Hope Inc., based out of New York, is an organization comprised of professional women who support the cause of underprivileged children both in India and the U.S.A. In the bustling city of Mumbai where many children dwell in slums, Children's Hope supports 60 balwadis or head start schools for children.

Children's Hope entered into a partnership with *One!* International to assist the children and families of Khar Danda through hiring a teacher and a social worker. The full time social worker and part time Hindi teacher have made a huge difference. The children's understanding and ability to read and write in the national language has increased. The social worker has been able to work with the families and children to encourage social growth.

Children's Hope also supports the medical needs of the children through Dental and Optometric checks.

One! and CHI are exploring additional ways to partner and Nallasopara may become a joint project in the future. Regular reports are provided.

A proposal has been submitted for a joint project in Nallasopara. We are optimistic that some form of partnership will be maintained and extended with this wonderful organization.

C) **Schools**

One! International has an ongoing partnership with Wes Hosford Elementary School in Sherwood Park, AB which holds an annual fundraiser collecting supplies and money for the children in India.

Savannah School in northern Alberta raised money for the *One!* schools in India, as well as Garneau Elementary School in Edmonton. Both schools learned about India, the city of Mumbai, and about the children and families that *One!* International supports. The young people are always surprised to learn about the conditions their peers in other parts of the world live in.

Emma James of Sherwood Park, a young woman who organized a very successful Wake-A-Thon at her Junior High School, organized one at Salisbury Composite High School and raised \$3,000 for the work in India.

More presentations and school involvements are planned for 2009.

D) Yoga Studios

One! International is fortunate to have partnerships with a number of Yoga studios: Yoga for Today in Sherwood Park; Yoga Passage in Calgary; and the Yoga Lounge in Canmore. These studios sponsor children and host fundraising events.

Two independent Yoga teachers from British Columbia (Kashi and Janice) are also supporting *One!* International through fundraising and passing on the information to their students about the work being done in India.

Satwinder donates the proceeds from her once per month Sunday morning Sadhana class to *One!*. Admission to her class requires a financial donation from the participant.

Yoga for Today has been supporting *One!* from the beginning. They took advantage of Tania Spilchen our President being home in Canada and held their annual fundraiser one month earlier than usual. Attendees enjoyed hearing about the activities in India from Tania directly. They enjoyed the delicious food and held a silent auction. This venture was extremely successful raising over \$3,000 for *One!*



E) Stollery Children's Hospital

The Edmonton Stollery Children's Hospital kindly donated toys, books and assorted items after they remodeled their play room. Items that were not suitable for transport to India were donated to The Candora Society, a non profit organization in Edmonton that assists the needs of low income residents.

Books are donated on an ongoing basis as required and available. Most of the books donated are Scholastic ones.



Give a Child-a-Chance Program (GCC)

The GCC program includes weekly meals, sporting activities, private education, counselling for families and the children, encouragement to improve life circumstances, and support as required. Donations for sponsored children are used to provide nutrition, clothing, medical necessities and the start of an education for a child. Most of all, the child will be given love and hope - a chance for a better future!

When you sponsor a child, you are provided with the child's history: name, birth date, family, strengths, weaknesses, likes, dislikes and dreams. Every six months you will be provided with an update of your child's situation, two new pictures, and art work from your child, schoolwork or exams, report card, and *One!* news - as much personal contact as is possible.

Giving a chance to a child is only \$30 (CDN) or the equivalent thereof.

In 2008, we are pleased to announce that there were 69 children who were sponsored for part or all of the year through the GCC program.

Donations continue to come from: Give-a-Child-a-Chance (GCC) Program, general monetary donations, and gifts in kind. Several people have taken advantage of CanadaHelps.Org to donate by credit card or direct debit. (www.canadahelps.org)



Volunteer Program

One! International has been very fortunate to attract volunteers from all over the world who have gone to India to work with the children from varying periods of time.

In 2008 volunteers came to us from:

USA
England
Canada – Alberta, Quebec
Denmark
Australia

Volunteers in India are responsible for assisting the children to grow academically, as well as in areas of personal health, sporting activities, creative play, and learning about future opportunities for themselves and their families. Typical duties of a volunteer include teaching classes – usually to the younger children (basic hygiene, basic English, mathematics, how to play and share and learning to prepare properly for tasks). Volunteers also maintain child records, and organize such weekly activities as meals, sports, drama, music, and travel.

The volunteers are expected to put in approximately seven hours a day, five days a week in program implementation, with fun fieldtrips on Saturdays. As holidays are numerous in India, there is opportunity for travel. *One!* provides basic food and accommodation for its volunteers.

Applications for volunteering in India have increased considerably from all over the world through a wide variety of sources (universities, travel sites, word of mouth, etc.). Applications recently were received from Australia, Egypt, United Kingdom, USA, Canada and many more. Canadian volunteers contribute by bringing one 50 pound suitcase of supplies for the children.



Volunteer Profile – Angelica Jaramillo

My husband, James and I moved to Mumbai when he was transferred there for work. I knew I wanted to do some volunteer work but was not sure what to do or where to start. I then met Ari, another expat and volunteer at the school, who told me about One! International and after speaking to Tania I was immediately interested as I liked the idea of working with children and also the fact that it would allow me to understand Indian life and culture better.

The first couple of months were difficult as the school made me confront all the realities that I had only seen on adverts requesting me to sponsor a child in the 3rd world, but never really made me relate to what it really meant. These are children who are not necessarily orphans, but that does not make them any less vulnerable. Every single one has a story to tell, a story which if told in Western countries would be front page of the newspapers as inexcusable and requests to the authorities of immediate change would be demanded. Sadly, in Mumbai...they are just everyday stories...

After the initial shock though, I learnt to see their reality through their eyes, not through mine. These children do not expect any sympathy nor want any pity, these are children who embrace the opportunity of going to school, the opportunity to learn and to be able to have one proper meal a day and medical assistance if needed. The children that come to One! International are the lucky ones, and I think they know it, and they love it!

Perhaps the most difficult experience I had was learning about Parvati's and Malesh's story, and then getting personally involved in ensuring their wellbeing. I don't think any time in India could have prepared me to deal with all the frustration, anger, tears, and emotional exhaustion we went through. This however is also the most rewarding experience we had. Thanks to everyone's efforts and determination the story has a happy ending; and my husband and I are delighted to hear about Parvati's improvement as time goes by. At this point I must say...my total admiration and respect to Tania who faces all these difficulties ever week, and never gives up.

We came back to the UK in December 2008, a year after I started volunteering, and although I know that the children will most likely forget about Angelica Didi, they will always be part of my memories and my heart.



Concurrent Programs

A) Education

Education is the key to a better life for the street children by giving them the choices that education (even simple literacy and rudimentary mathematics) can give. In addition to the basics of Hindi and mathematics, English is taught once Hindi has been mastered. *One!* International also has a skills development program which teaches sewing, woodworking and cooking.



Most of the older children have tried to attend government schools in the past, but the efforts were unsuccessful for the following reasons:

- parents did not encourage or enforce regular attendance
- parents did not understand the benefits of education as they themselves were uneducated
- the children did not have even the minimal of school preparation such as being able to use a pencil, how to play, to share, or have the discipline to sit quietly and learn
- the children do not have proof of age documents
- the families need the assistance of the children to contribute to the families' income

One! teaches all age children from pre-Balwadi (pre-kindergarten) to adulthood. The younger children will be able to attain the basics of education, discipline, the love of learning and the groundwork for Hindi, Maths and English, which will allow them to attend regular schools in India and thus obtain their school certificates. Older children, who are not able to catch up to their age peers, will become literate and gain other important knowledge which will give them more options for employment. The skills development program will also help.



Accomplishment in 2008:



Staff Development activities started with the staff at both schools. The teachers and social workers got together at the Khar school. Teambuilding exercises brought the teams closer together; professional teaching and social work skills were improved.

Tearmbuilding exercises brought the teams closer together; professional teaching and social work skills were improved. One volunteer taught MSExcel, MSWord and other programs. Our hope is that teachers and social workers will continue to teach computer skills in future so they will be fluent in computer technology.

Pre-step training program has undergone significant growth. Smita, with Jayanti's help, began a training program for our prestep mothers and senior student help. In total, four mothers and six students took part. They memorized simple poems in both Hindi and English, learned how to care for the children, organized them into games and activities, and helped the children to start learning. We also revised our curricula and organized the school supplies and cupboards.

Single class attendance reached the highest ever, approximately 85 regular students, 10 babies and 10 older students plus 20-30 children that come and go. *One!* cares daily for more than 100 children at Khar Danda with an additional 50 to 100 children at Nallasopara.

One! International has nine teachers/social workers/child care workers (eight full time and one part time), plus Tania Spilchen, eight part time student/parent helpers and the volunteers working at the schools

Education assists by trying to break the parent's dependence on their children for the food and money the children get from begging. Emphasis on basic subjects: Hindi language, mathematics, sciences and English.

- Children from 'Lines to Literacy' (learning how to use a pencil to reading Hindi and English)
- Life skills such as woodworking, sewing and cooking as an alternative to begging. Thereby improving self respect, self esteem, confidence and able to contribute to society.
- In addition, health and hygiene, art, drama and music, as well as school field trips provide children with a complete school experience.

B) Health and Social Assistance

One! International works with the families in the areas of health, hygiene and cleanliness. If the children attend classes regularly, they have access to health related products and services as required. The organization has enforced the rule that all children must bathe and keep clean to attend school and take part in any *One!* activities such as Saturday field trips.

These hygiene practices are carried over to the school room where the children wash their hands and brush their teeth every day. Cleanliness has spread into everyday life and there is a visible difference in the decreased level of sickness among the families, thus giving them a healthier lifestyle and a way that they can break the caste/class barriers that they are forced to contend with.

One! International continues to assist the families in a wide variety of health issues. Bandages, medication and hygiene products are supplied as required.

- Implementation of dentistry and optometry programs.
- All children are expected to bath regularly and keep clean by washing hands, brushing teeth. This focus has expanded to daily life and there is a noticeable decrease in sickness amongst the families.

C) Field Trips

One! International volunteers and staff take the children and sometimes their parents on regular fieldtrips. The children are taken to the movies, the beach, and the fair or to a volunteer's home, even just down the street to play games and have fun. Every field trip involves an educational component, a full meal at a local restaurant (which allows the children to enter) and a lot of smiles.

Through these activities, the children have the opportunity to participate in activities that they would not otherwise be able to afford. They learn to conduct themselves appropriately in social settings and that learning can be fun. The fieldtrips continue to be a reward for the children for attendance at school and as an incentive for continued learning.

Our long term supporter Tracy Jackson in New York sponsors the weekly Saturday field days.

Accomplishment in 2008:

November started with a bang with our semester trip planned to Borivli National Park. Over 60 children from both schools enjoyed a relaxed day of watching monkeys, climbing, cricket, biriyani and more.

Slumdog Millionaire"

- The makers of the hit movie donated \$747,500 to a charity devoted to improving the lives of street children in Mumbai. The rags-to-riches tale of a slum kid who makes it big, won eight Oscars and grossed more than \$300 million worldwide.
- The 10-year-old child star of "Slumdog Millionaire" was awakened Thursday by a policeman wielding a bamboo stick and ordered out of his home. Minutes later it was bulldozed

Source: World Development Indicators 2008, NFHS 3 2005-06, and World Bank's 'India at a Glance'

D) Art & Drama

Each year in November the children give a concert for their parents and supporters of *One!* International. The children prepare for weeks for their roles in the plays and the dances; they help with the costumes and prepare the art work for the stage. All of the children enjoy their regular art classes and extra art projects; they usually prepare posters for volunteers when they leave and for other special occasions.

Accomplishment in 2008:

Annual Program #7. Seven years of history of *One!*, seven years of history in Khar...and the beginning of a new chapter in the history books for the Nallasopara school. It was quite a special event having both schools together performing — the veterans of the Khar school cheering on the 'freshmen' of the Nallasopara school. It was such a pleasure to see the new light in the Nallasopara parents eyes at seeing what their children could do. The pride. Overall, the event had over 150 children, over 100 parents and many guests to round out the number to almost 300 performers, staff and other attendees.

E) Housing

Families live in make shift huts by the side of the road as their income is only enough to provide food for their family. They are unable to afford the costs of getting into permanent dwellings. Committing to renting a permanent dwelling is a huge commitment for the families and involves a great desire to want to make things better for their children. A large percentage of family income would need to go towards rent, and since many of the adults have serious addictions, income is often used to feed the addiction.

Accomplishment in 2008:

More families were relocated to more permanent housing with only about 8-10 families still in temporary housing. ("Permanent" means that the homes have walls and a roof made out of wood, have access to electricity and water, and will not be torn down for road repairs.)

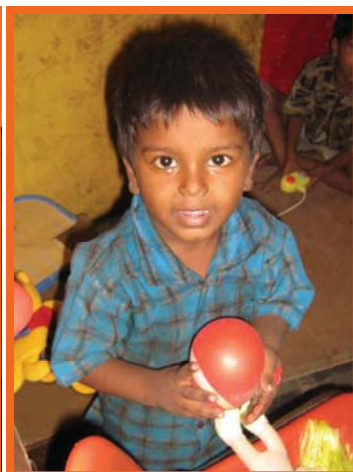
F) Life Skills Development Program

During Cooking Class, the students prepare lunch for the entire school. They learn to purchase food, and prepare it in a healthy and safe manner.

Sewing and woodworking skills development programs are producing incredible results. Long gone are lop-sided bookshelves and irregular stitches, the students are building tables, chairs and cupboards and sewing backpacks for the students. The students are paid for the products produced based on quality, hence the children are more self-motivated. Hard work and motivation are excellent life lessons for the children to learn and understand.

The children were excited to have the following two new life skills programs added to the curriculum:

- Camera Project. Disposable cameras were donated by a volunteer who taught some of the older students the basics of photography.
- Driving Lessons. One of the oldest boys took driving lessons with the aim of being able to drive for the school, and obtain future employment. Although he passed his test, he still requires further practice.



Assistance for the Work of *One!* International

One! International would not have had the success it has had without the support and assistance of numerous individuals and organizations, both Canadian and world-wide.

Assistance and support has come in many ways:

- Give-A-Child-A-Chance Program
- Corporate and school partners
- Fundraising activities such as: fundraising dinners, silent auctions; monetary donations from \$10 to \$15,000
- Donations of school supplies, hygiene products, toys, books, gently used children's clothing, saris and numerous other items
- Legal and accounting services
- Organization management services
- Volunteer Board
- Marketing strategies (newspaper, radio, TV)
- Moral support from family, friends and strangers
- Support of the Yoga Community

Respectfully submitted by,

Tania Spilchen
President/Founder of *One!* International Poverty Relief
One! International
112 Garland Crescent
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 2R2

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P: (780) 467.6254

W: [www.one-international.com](http://www.one-international.com)

E: onemumbai1@aol.com

