

## Section B

1. How much of the funds is expected from WAH 2010 & what your chapter's target to raise for WAH 2010 would be?

We are looking for \$10,000 for RCBW project from WAH. Asha Cincinnati is targeting to raise about \$4,000 for WAH 2010. Last year our chapter raised close to \$3,350, so we are hoping to achieve the similar target this year as well.

2. What was the amount raised for the project in the last two years?

\$2,700.

## Section C

### Impact

1. *What is the reach and impact that the project has had on the local community? What fundamental problem(s) does the project address? Please provide concrete examples, numbers etc. Please provide at least one impact story/ example that could be used to showcase your project during WAH.*

The project aims at providing rehabilitation, vocational training and placement services to adult blind women particularly for the women who are completely blind, deprived blind, below the poverty line and from the remote villages. The whole program of the center is designed to reach the goal of empowerment and advancement of the status of blind women.

RCBW provides vocational training in traditional crafts which include weaving, bag making, tailoring, recanning, chalk making, detergents and phenyl making etc. This institution provides training in some modern trades in order to help those who have some basic education and residual vision. These trades include screen-printing, bakery, telephone booth managing, stenography and computer operation. After successful training the girls are assisted to earn their living through the various crafts that they have learnt in the institute. They are encouraged to become self-sufficient in their economic life and they are assisted by the center and by the nationalized banks through soft loans for employment. The institute also deposits the money by opening a savings account so that they have some funds to start with when they leave the institute.

Along with training and vocational education, RCBW also provides for education of girls and prepares them to appear in 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grade examinations and even further education if they are interested. During the past few years, with Asha's support RCBW has provided intensive coaching and all the students who appeared for the exams have come out successfully. To quote a few successful students of RCBW-- **Dr.RadhaBhai M.A. Phd** working as a professor in Govt. Arts college for women, Pudukottai, **Mrs.Shanthi M.Com**, working in Oriental insurance company, Tanjore, **Miss.Vimala Mary, M.Com, B.Ed**, working as a P.G. Teacher in Govt. Higher

Secondary School Ayilapettai Kuzumani in this district. Two of RCBW students, **Selvi.Kavitha and selvi.Baby** are continuing their studies in Teacher Training Course in Music College .

RCBW has conducted more than 400 marriages so far. Each year 5-7 blind women are getting married the entire cost of marriage is borne by the institution.

### **Success Stories:**

#### **PARAMESHWARI**



“Impossible itself says I am possible”, it depends on how we read and take up the things in casual manner.

My native place is Thirunallur. I born in a middle class family. Father is a farmer and mother house wife. I am having the problem of low vision, thus I am unable to study and my parents also worried about my education.

We heard about this Rehabilitation Centre for Blind Women through word of mouth and decided to join here. After joining here I got lot of spirit and self confidence.

Here my education track started and I feel that I have lot of things to achieve. I studied 8<sup>th</sup> standard through this institution and appeared for exam as private candidate and I scored **420 / 500**. Now it makes my parents and everyone happy and now I am studying 10<sup>th</sup> standard.

No words to express our Amma care and dedication towards us. Our staff Mrs.Radha ramakrishnan motivation makes me to do wonders in my studies for achievement of good marks. Apart from studies I learn various activities like Tailoring, Incense stick making and Recanning.

### **Innovation**

2. *Does your project employ an innovative model? If so, in what area and how? Can this be replicated across other projects?*

RCBW trains the girls and women using various methods and techniques so that they can become independent and become active member of the society. These techniques can be

easily adapted and used by organizations working towards similar goals as of RCBW. Some of the activities and techniques are:

Orientation and mobility training.

Training in computers using voice synthesizers.

Braille shorthand and typerwriting English and Tamil.

Preparing for higher secondary examinations, degree courses.

Carnatic & Instrumental music

Motivating eye donations.

Vocational training – Tailoring., Weaving, Telephone Booth manning, Recanning, Block printing, Bakery, Detergents, Plan Craft, Candles, Envelops, Files, Footwear.

Conducting mass marriages.

Employment and placement service.

Counseling parents of disabled children.

Printing Press and Binding Unit.

### **Quality**

3. *Within the context of the community, resources and the type of school the project runs, has anything been done to improve the quality of the project, ie., improving overall efficiency, quality of education, infrastructure, improving health and nutrition and awareness, etc. ? If so, what has been done and how was this accomplished?*

RCBW always strives to improve the quality of training and education so that the girls can get the best possible opportunities in future. For example, these days it's not just sufficient that girls are trained to become stenographers or telephone operators. Computer jobs are more available so if the girls are trained in operating computers, they will have better opportunities, that's why RCBW is training the girls to learn computers using JAWS software which will help them in getting better jobs. RCBW also lets girls choose and decide the trade they want to get trained in and let them pursue their interests such as music. That way, by following their interests and dreams, they are able to give their best and eventually leads to their success.

### **Sustainability**

4. *Is the project entirely dependent on funds from Asha for Education?*

*a) If so, has anything been done to procure other funding for the project? Why/Why not?*

No, we get support from community and other local organizations for various activities. Community has been a big support all these years and we hope to have their support in coming years as well.

*b) If not, what other types of funding are available to the project, and what percentage of their expenses is funded by Asha? Is there an alternate source of funding that other projects could benefit from?*

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*c) Self sustainability - Has the project taken steps towards self sustenance? If so, what are the plans for the project in the next two years?*

RCBW continues to get support from the community and local organizations. Also the previous students support the organization by various ways such as volunteering, monetary support from time to time, and by spreading the word among their friends , families. This helps RCBW to get more support and help from different groups of people. RCBW will also look to see if there are some Govt policies which it can use to help more sustained funding and support in coming years. RCBW also runs a bakery (which is very popular) and there are plans to expand it in coming years which will help RCBW in moving closer to self-sustainability in coming years.

### **Scope & Growth**

*5. Are there plans to expand the scope of the project? If so, in what way? Has the scope of the project expanded in previous years of operation? If so, how was that accomplished?*

As mentioned, RCBW plans to add one more bakery in coming year. RCBW also plans to increase the intake of students. RCBW has continuously been expanding it's operation in terms of increasing the training activities, adding more vocational trainings, and reaching out to more and more girls and women and RCBW has been successful in achieving those as can be seen in many success stories.

### **Merit**

*6. Why did you choose to submit this project, as opposed to any others you may have considered to submit, to WAH 2010?*

We at Asha Cincinnati feel that RCBW has been doing excellent job in providing education, support and rehabilitation of blind girls and women and such a project need to be showcased for WAH 2010. Working with dedicated project partner like RCBW is a great learning experience for all the Asha volunteers here. The project requires funds for a vehicle along with education and vocational training related items. Currently the girls use public transport to commute to training centers, classes, tuition classes, exam centers etc which is a lot of hassle and problem, especially during the busy hours in the morning and evening. Vehicle will help them in commuting and will be a great help to them. Along with that, computers with JAWS software will help the girls in getting trained for future job opportunities. We liked that RCBW keeps in track how the girls are doing after leaving the institute and if they are facing some problems in their jobs, home, marriages, they step in and help them out.