



**SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:**

- Team Asha raised \$4000 so far this year. Help us get to our goal of \$50,000.
- Signup for Team Asha 10K program starting in January.
- Early bird tickets on sale for Ganga and Lanka. **BUY YOURS TODAY!** See [page 2](#) for details.
- Want to volunteer for an upcoming Asha event? See [page 2](#) for details.

## Featured Project: Khushboo Welfare Society



### KWS children participating in an event

One of Asha-Austin's 19 projects is the Khushboo Welfare Society (KWS), a holistic center for the mentally challenged children and adolescents with profound disabilities. KWS has four divisions, namely the early intervention center (Sparsh), academic school (Blessings), vocational training unit (Samarth), and center for children with profound disabilities (Samvedan). Started in 1995, by a dedicated team of 3 volunteers, who

were touched by this personal cause, KWS presently plays an important role in facilitating care and helping integrate the children into mainstream living, and serves about 150 children. About 50 children attend the school on a full-time basis.

Asha-Austin has been supporting KWS since 2008 and has disbursed about \$31,000 till date towards salaries of staff at KWS. Currently, for the funding cycle from April 2010-Mar 2011, Asha-Austin supports the salaries of six special educators of the Blessings school division. With a very low student: teacher ratio, KWS strives to retain its trained, certified and highly-qualified special educators, along with the equally important therapists, care-takers, and other maintenance personnel.

KWS also serves the community with its outreach program for early detection and intervention in the villages around Gurgaon, Haryana.

A full documentary about KWS is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIwk3dstca0&feature=related> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NgbJhu88WE&feature=related>

Asha-Austin's KWS project page: <https://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=972>

Products from the vocational training division are available for sale, where the sale proceed go to the project. For further information, please contact Ranga ([rangakrishnans@gmail.com](mailto:rangakrishnans@gmail.com)).

## Strides of Hope Update

In Team Asha news, Sharanya Rao successfully completed her target race by participating in her first 10K trail race. Sirsha Chatterjee was the first to complete her fundraising goal. Congrats to the two of them!

Team Asha runners have collectively fundraised ~\$4000 to date and hope to raise much more during the holiday season. We need all the support to achieve our goal of raising \$50,000. You can support the SoH cause by donating at <http://www.ashanet.org/austin/soh/donate-to-team-asha-soh/>

**Remember—no amount is small.**

Are you looking to make your New Year's fitness resolution into a reality? Join the Strides of Hope 10K training program—get fit, push your fitness limits, make friends, and help raise funds to support the education of underprivileged children in India. Team Asha runners get 50% off the Rogue 10K training cost. For more information contact our SoH coordinators at [austin.marathon@ashanet.org](mailto:austin.marathon@ashanet.org)

**Go Team Asha!**



The 2010-11 Strides of Hope program is now onto its fourth month of training and our new half-marathon runners recently completed their first double-digit miler.

## Upcoming events

### DECEMBER 2010

Join Team Asha for a fun run around Townlake this holiday season. You will have the option to run 2-7 miles with current SoH runners. If you are contemplating the 10K training program, this fun run is a great way to learn more by talking to current runners (both from SoH and Rogue Training) about their training experiences.

**Where:** 8:00 AM, December 26, 2010

**Where:** Intersection of Atlanta St & Veteran's Drive (Lady Bird lake at the rock)

If you need more information contact Jairam at [jairamk@gmail.com](mailto:jairamk@gmail.com)

### JANUARY 2011

Team Asha will be hosting an information session for the upcoming 10K training program.

**When & Where:** January 2011 (date and venue to be announced)

### JANUARY 2011

#### **Ganga**

Ganga is an upcoming classical dance-drama production by the local dance company, Natyalaya. Ganga is the story of River Ganga told by the legends and by those who made their living off of her banks. It also portrays the centuries of culture and religion spawned by her shores. This will be a fully Asha-driven event and 100% of proceeds (minus expenses) will be donated to Asha.

**When:** January 15, 2011 at 6.00 PM

**Where:** Waldorf Performing Arts Center  
8700 South View Road Austin TX 78737

**Buy your Ganga show tickets TODAY at:**

<http://www.ashanet.org/austin/ganga/tickets.html>

### MARCH-APRIL 2011

#### **Lanka**

Lanka is an upcoming production by Agni Productions combining Theatre, Dance and Martial Arts. Lanka tells the fictional story about what transpires in Lanka after the great battle between Rama and Ravana, post the Ramayana period. The production will tour Texas in March and April 2011, and a part of the proceeds from all shows will benefit Asha Austin, Asha Houston and Asha Dallas.

**When & Where:**

- Austin – 03/20/2011 – Westlake High

School

- Houston — 03/27/2011 — Cullen Theatre (Wortham Center)
- San Antonio – 04/10/2011 – Carver Community Cultural Theatre
- Dallas — 04/16/2011 — Granville Arts Center

#### **Lanka on Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lanka-An-Epic-on-Stage/165789836770148>

**Buy your discounted pre-sale tickets TODAY:**

<http://www.lankaproduction.com/tickets.htm>

### APRIL-MAY 2011

#### **Indian Classical Music concert**

Asha-Austin is thrilled to announce the upcoming Hindustani classical concert featuring renowned local sitar maestro, Indrajit Banerjee. He will be accompanied on the sarod by Shankar Bhattacharyya, and on the table by Gourisankar Karmakar. Watch for more details in our next newsletter.

**When & Where:** April/May 2011 (date and venue to be announced)

**Check out the artists' profiles here:**

<http://indrajitbanerjee.com/>

<http://www.sitarsetc.com/musicianpages/>

[shankar\\_bhattacharyya.htm](http://shankar_bhattacharyya.htm)

<http://austintabla.com/about.php>

