



ASHA KIRAN

Asha-Seattle's quarterly Newsletter

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Greetings all!

Summer has come to a sudden end... but that means, Asha Seattle's masti (fun) and fund raising season has begun!!

As the days become darker, we ask you to participate with full gusto – come join us for the eleventh sold out year of the smash hit show AllGoRhythms. Run, walk or cheer the participants of our marathon and other Team Asha fund raisers. Go out and take part in a late year round of Golf, while supporting Asha – at the Subeer D. Manhas Charitable Golf Tournament. Subeer and his wife have been organizing this tournament for eleven years. To find out about ways that friends of Asha have been supporting Asha, please visit - <http://www.ashanet.org/seattle/friendsofasha.php> . You might be inspired to organize your own creative fund raiser. There is nothing like doing something for others, to feel warm – truly warm, from the inside.

Read on about Vigyan Ashram, featured in our Partner Showcase column, and get further insight into the types of excellent endeavors that Asha supports. Enjoy poetry by one of our volunteers, and be sure to note the dates of upcoming events. Marvel at the Team Asha climbers who summited Mt. Rainer for Asha.

Fall also marks the start of giving campaigns at several companies. Microsoft's Giving Campaign is an important and successful fund raiser for Asha, and has begun. Please support the campaign at Microsoft, and please do take the lead and highlight Asha at giving campaigns at your work place.

Given the current climate of fear of another recession, and the fundraising shortfall that Asha is facing, (which is being translated to our partners), your support has never been more important. We hope you will join us with full energy and generosity as we enter this very important phase of the year.

Asha Seattle Team

Vigyan Ashram, Pabal, Maharashtra

By Jyoti Gawade

Partner Showcase

If we go thousand five hundred years back in history, India was at the forefront of civilization. In those days there was more Philosophy than Science. Rishis were the philosophers who observed nature and put down their thoughts as hypotheses. There were also master craftsmen with skills and empirically gathered knowledge, passed down from generation to generation. These craftsmen had no knowledge inputs from the thinkers, but only empirical observations. Science brought in the concept of experimentation – an association of thinking and doing - that changed the picture for developed countries.





Today, even though India has talent in both spheres, Philosophy and Science, there is a huge gap between the heads and the hands, between the thinkers and the doers. Late Dr. Vikas Kalbag realized this gap, twenty eight years ago, and started Vigyan Ashram as a step toward addressing it. At Vigyan Ashram, students apply Science to learn skills and develop new,

pertinent technology. Vigyan Ashram has become a modern version of the old Gurukul where education is not limited to few hours a day at school. Students live in the school and their education is integrated in each and everything they do as part of everyday life. Directly applying learned skills and knowledge for helping the community in day-to-day activities is an important part of Vigyan Ashram curriculum.



Asha Seattle is a proud sponsor of Vigyan Ashram's DBRT (Diploma in Basic Rural Technology) as well as part of the IBT

(Introduction to Basic Technology) program. To learn more, visit the Vigyan Ashram project page - <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=574>

Mt. Rainier Climb

Seven Team Asha climbers successfully summited Mount Rainier on August 7th this year to raise funds for Asha Seattle. Mount Rainier, at 14,411 feet, is the highest peak in the Cascades Range. All the climbers have trained very hard in rain and in snow for this climb for almost five months. Sir Edmund Hillary once said that it is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves. We hope that this initiative will inspire more members of the community to join hands with Asha Seattle in conquering the challenges of bringing about socio-economic change in the lives of



underprivileged communities in India. You can support the climbers by visiting their pages and making a donation to Asha - <http://www.ashanet.org/seattle/teamasha/climb/climbers.php>

Giving Campaigns

The Microsoft Give Campaign has begun. It is a busy time for Asha volunteers at Microsoft who work hard to get the word out, and provide information about the work that Asha Seattle does. This is a special appeal to

Microsoft employees to support Asha's work generously. Your contributions have never been more important. Thank you for your enormous support of Asha to date.

Several other companies also have fall giving campaigns. We encourage all volunteers and supporters of Asha to take the lead, highlight Asha, shed light on the impact our project partners are making, and, in general drive support for Asha.

School life

I lie in Bed drifting in and out of sleep
the sky is dark and the shadows are deep
a series of vignettes march through my mind
keeping pace with the clocks drumbeat
memories of a simpler time ...

my school, my friends, those days were fine
of hurried breakfasts and homework done in haste
ruler, pencil, scissors, paste
polished shoes, shining tiffin boxes and
a backpack that weighed a ton

the bell will ring
so run, run, run ...
Shivering through assembly in the morning chill,
math and science class were a walk uphill.
Recess was a time for friendly banter
Those days friends were all that mattered.
Playing sports seemed more important than studies
Full of confidence, no cares or worries.

I succumb to sleep with a smile on my face
thinking of those golden days.

- J.R.

Events, past and future

July 23	Asha Seattle annual picnic
July 31	Training for Seattle Marathon begins - every Sundays 8 am and Thursdays 6.30 pm
Aug 6-7	Mount Rainier climb by seven team Asha climbers
Aug 3	Talk by John Mixon, 2010 Fellowship Recipient, Villgro Innovations Foundation
Aug 21	Asha workshop
Aug 9	New Volunteer Orientation
Aug 23-26	Film making workshop
Sept 11	Run/ Walk @ Marymoor Park with Asha For Education
Oct 9	Subeer D. Manhas Charitable Golf Tournament
Oct 15	Allgorhythms 2011
Oct 14	Kalakkal (in association with Seattle Tamil Sangam)
Oct 14-16	Art Workshop
Oct 19	Poker Tournament in Microsoft Building 34 cafeteria at 5pm
Oct 29	Dr. Sharad Gadre Memorial Diwali Concert for benefit of Asha Seattle

Please also visit <http://www.ashanet.org/seattle/teamasha/marathon/races.php> for upcoming Team Asha races.