



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WINGS OF HOPE CHILDREN'S CHARITY - DECEMBER 2014

WINGS NEWS

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2014-15, WOHAAs 10th year running! Read on to see what we've been doing to kickstart this landmark year.

BBC 100 Women



In October the BBC revealed its list of 100 inspirational women, and we're delighted that Smruti Sriram, the brains behind WOHAAs, was included. We went to the 100 women conference, held to celebrate the achievements of women around the world and to address issues of gender inequality.

The conference's keynote speakers were Dr Joyce Banda, former president of Malawi and women's rights activist; Shappi Khorsandi, British-Iranian comedian; Prof. Lesley Yellowlees, the first female president of the Royal Chemistry Society; and Shazia Saleem, self-professed "serial entrepreneur" and founder of Ieat Foods halal ready-meals; and the panel was chaired by the BBC's Razia Iqbal.

They spoke on topics as wide-reaching as women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), women in business, gender stereotyping in family life, and in politics.

We hope these women have inspired you as much as they have inspired us.



WOHAAs Cambridge Trip



On Thursday 4th December, a group of WOHAAs students visited Robinson College, Cambridge.

We were given an informative talk about the admissions process for university in general and Cambridge specifically, as well as a tour of the college with two Robinson undergraduate students.

After the formal part of the day ended, we headed off into town for some free time exploring the historical city centre and looking at other colleges.

Students on the trip described it as "very interesting and insightful to life at Cambridge", saying "it was really good and made me less worried about applying!"

Massive thank you to Robinson's Katie Vernon for all her help in organising the trip, as well as to our student tour-guides, Mark and Patrick.

Dear Colleagues & Students,

As you may be aware, 2014-15 marks WOHAAs 10th anniversary, and it's hard to believe that the Autumn term is almost over and Christmas nearly upon us.

We are deeply grateful to schools, students, parents and companies alike. Your support means so much not only to us, but also to the hundreds of students in India and Malawi who benefit from help from the Wings of Hope.

It is your continued support, too, that has allowed us to take on not one, but two additional projects in 2014. In August, we began supporting the SAVE Trust, who have recently opened 10 after-school tuition centres in slums near Chennai. We are also delighted to be offering our support to the Jacaranda Foundation, which provides free education, nourishment and scholarship grants to hundreds of children in Limbe, Malawi.

The Wings of Hope Achievement Award has also got off to a great start for its 10th year, with almost 1000 students signed up. Every year, we are taken aback by their creativity, hard work and sheer enthusiasm, and this year is no exception. With bake sales, concerts, fun-runs and dance shows already underway, we are looking forward to seeing what else this exceptional cohort of students will achieve.

We wish all participants the best of luck! Season's greetings and a happy, healthy new year to all.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rajni Sriram, CEO & Co-founder



An update on some of our projects



We are delighted that the primary section of the Swaminarayan School in Neasden have chosen Wings of Hope as their charity to support this Christmas.

The school and its pupils – some as young as 4 and 5 years old – have been working really hard to collect shoeboxes full of Christmas presents for the projects we support in Chennai, southern India.

The beautifully wrapped boxes will have now been shipped to Chennai – we're sure they will be gratefully received.

We would like to thank the school, with its staff, pupils and parents, for all their support this year!

SAVE Trust



Last year, we partnered with the SAVE (Social Action and Value Education) Trust, an organisation based in Chennai. In August 2014 the Trust opened 10 tuition centres in

North Chennai. With two teachers per centre, the new project provides 600 children living in slums in Chennai with free after-school tuition to help them catch up on their schoolwork. These children often find themselves at a disadvantage in school: for most of them, their parents did not complete secondary education, and are therefore unable to help their children with their studies.

Although the project is only a few months old, it is already a huge success. Since their opening in August, the centres have put on celebrations for India's Children's Day in November, had a refresher training session for teachers, and begun working to prepare students for their half-yearly exams.

Jacaranda Foundation in Limbe, Malawi

Wings of Hope are excited to announce that we will be supporting a new project - the Jacaranda Foundation.



The Jacaranda Foundation is an American-Malawian organisation which supports free education in Limbe, Malawi. In Malawi, primary school is free, but students must provide their own uniforms, books and equipment. Secondary school is not free – students must pay to attend. Not so at the Jacaranda School for Orphans, however. Children from the age of 6 all the way up to 18 are provided with free education, as well as extra-curricular activities and clubs and access to a library. Students are also provided with all the uniforms and equipment they need to attend the school.

For school leavers with good grades, the foundation also offers scholarship grants that allow them to enter higher education in Malawi.

We are very much looking forward to what we hope will be a fruitful collaboration with the Jacaranda Foundation!





WOHAA 2014-15 off to a flying start, for the 10th year



The Wings of Hope programme in the UK, WOHAA (Wings of Hope Achievement Award). Since September, we've been out and about, visiting schools in London and the Southeast to present the award to students. We're always so happy to see such enthusiasm amongst the students and teachers, so thank you all.



As we head into the Christmas holidays, teams of students are already planning and running some exciting fundraisers. The list of all the activities that students – and sometimes even teachers – have been putting on for WOHAA is too long to include here, but it's included sponsored runs, car boot sales, silent auctions, recycling of old clothes and foreign coins, cake sales and a dance show.



We're both very proud of and grateful to all the students who are really challenging themselves, learning new skills and raising money for a worthwhile cause.

coming Up in 2015.....

7th February

Speed Mentoring Event at the Royal College of Surgeons

All WOHAA participants are invited to spend an afternoon in the company of 60 professionals from 30 different industries, getting advice for their futures

31st March

Snapshots Projects submission deadline

23rd April

The Wings of Hope Achievement Awards

(WOHAA) Semi-Finals at the House of Lords, Houses of Parliament. Successful WOHAA teams will be invited to present their projects to a panel Of Judges at the House of Lords

6th May

The Wings of Hope Achievement Awards (WOHAA) *Awards evening*

A night of celebrating the achievements of all our participants, along with their Parents, friends, teachers and our corporate partners.

Some changes to the WOHAA Awards categories...

As we're sure you're all aware, WOHAA entries are judged based on five categories. We've updated these this year to better reflect the wide and varied abilities of our participants. This year, we'll be awarding prizes for:

- o The Most Entrepreneurial WOHAA Team/Individual
- o Community Action (for teams who have used WOHAA to make a difference in their local community)
- o The Most Awareness Raised and Best Presentation
- o Excellence in Sport/Art/Culinary/Technology
- o The Most Funds Raised

In addition, we will also be awarding prizes to schools whose teams have collectively reached certain fundraising targets:

- o Bronze award: if your school raises £5000, you will receive a unique, framed certificate
- o Silver award: if your school raises £7000, you will be invited to take part in a fun group challenge
- o Gold award: if your school raises £10000, you will be invited to tea at the House of Lords

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