



# CARDS

(Child Action Rural Development Society)

helping children in need



## MISSION

"To offer an alternative route to vulnerable children away from the streets into a life that offers safety and opportunity helping to secure the future for them."



Vijaya Rao distributing slates for street children.

## Director's Note

Having lost the father during my childhood and being brought up in an Orphanage, undergone many suffering and staying with the orphans made me understand the world better and had given me a thought to work for the orphan street children. CARDS came into being in 2003 with the vision to improve the lives of the poor and neglected communities, focusing specifically on women and children whose position in Indian society was a disgrace to the human race, especially considering that they have long been central to all achievements of the human race. The march towards CARDS's vision for the past 8 years is now a part of our history.

- Vijaya Rao, Founder & Director

## Welcome to CARDS

CARDS is a grass root non-profit, non-governmental organization registered in the year 2003 to work for the welfare and development of weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the society. It is formed promote and enhance sustainable rural, tribal and urban development and to create opportunities to the vulnerable and disadvantage sections of the community in order to enhance their socio-economic status. CARDS believes in the integrated approach, participatory planning, demonstration, exposure visits, empowerment and capacity building for the project implementations considering the community decision as final.



Street girls and boys are happy at shelter



Children full of happiness at care home

## About CARDS

CARDS started a home for Orphan Street children in Guntur town of Andhra Pradesh state, India. These Orphan Street Children, Rag Pickers, Child Labors, Begging Children and Railway Platform Children are picked up from the streets taken care of every child by providing them Health Care, Nutrition, Formal and Non-formal Education, Vocational training and Home placements for destitute children. Now these children are going to school, attending Vocational Training schools learning Tailoring, Screen-Printing, Carpentry, Electrician and Paper bags and making their living with their meager income for self- sustenance.

"The children who loss all the chances of human love, come to the railway station and stay a period struggling for daily bread in unhealthy and oppressive conditions, with fear and submissiveness have to be considered and cared with humanity. Rescuing them as early as possible from the railways stations and providing them chances of rehabilitation and put into mainstream of life is very essential."



CARDS taking care of the orphans children

## We Feed the Hungry

The only way to permanently break the cycle of poverty is with education. However, if children are hungry they will not go to school, or succeed even if enrolled in school. The conditions are so poor that they forage in garbage piles for things like rotting food. Or they beg on the streets for scraps because they are orphans. With nearly half malnourished who are under age 5, India has the highest rate of underweight children in the world – much higher than the average sub-Saharan African country. In fact, The Economist reports that more than one-third of the world's malnourished under-fives lives in India. Since its beginnings, CARDS has been responding to the nutritional needs of impoverished children.

## We Shelter the Homeless

We see so many deserted children in tattered clothes on the streets. And with every child, there is a story. A set of circumstances that perhaps has left them with no home or family. Children rescued in the railway stations or in the streets by social worker will be brought to this home. The home equip with simple furniture, beds, reading materials, entertainment equipments like games articles and television. In the evenings chance of games activities will be given to the children to whom necessary arrangements have to be made. In their leisure time they watch television and perform cultural programs.



staff counselling destitute children on railway platforms.



A wounded street child receiving care

## We Care for Neglected

CARDS rescue and rehabilitate street children, destitute orphan children, neglected and abused children who come from homes where they were victimized by neglect and drug exposed children or by unspeakable physical, sexual or emotional abuse, caught up in a family crisis, dysfunction or turmoil, abandoned or orphaned or by their parents / guardians could not care for them, for any number of reasons. Our goal is restore the emotional and physical well being of children through an array of services in a loving and nurturing environment by providing basic necessities of life like food, clothing shelter, health care, formal and non-formal education, repatriation, vocational training and counseling for destitute orphan street children.

## We Educate for their Future

Education is the only way to break the cycle of poverty and at CARDS we believe that every child has the right to an education, no matter what their circumstances may be. CARDS aim is to provide basic literacy for empowering every individual child of the rural unreached downtrodden marginalized communities of the society. We are serving with functional literacy and streamlining them towards regular education with an understanding of their basic rights and responsibilities, enabling their socio-economic and cultural development, and to universalize primary education in the rural areas. Skills like reading, writing, general knowledge, functional skills to maintain themselves will be imparted in the day time by the Teacher.



Street children learning Drawing

"Because of their life style, the street children have very poor health condition. There is really no one to care for them in times of illness or emergency. They have no savings to pay the cost of medicines and doctor's fee. When injured, they leave the wound unattended. Thus they learn to live with diseases."





Regular health checkup at our shelter

## Health Promotion programs

CARDS have been conducting medical camps programs aiming at health needs of men, women and children catering the health services to thousands of people in and around Guntur District's unreached rural areas and slums for free of cost, and also sensitizing about eradication of child marriages, controlling of maternal and child deaths, cent percent coverage of immunization to children, family planning norms, educating the women to join the hospital for safe deliveries and counseling on HIV/ AIDS awareness, referral services to these illiterate rural and slum dwellers on the importance of health and hygiene.

## Vocational Training

CARDS vocational training centre for the poor and downtrodden community is strengthening the capacities of illiterates and semi educated women, widows and girls to effectively responsibly and sustainably contribute to their families. This vocational centre imparts specialized skills and knowledge essential for successful economic activities by people engaged independent employment, self-employment or subsistence work.



Street child learning Tailoring under guidance of his Master

## Volunteer

We are currently looking for volunteers who can spend some time supporting children & young people looked after by CARDS at our care home Bapatla, Guntur Dist, A.P; India. These children & young people need volunteers they can rely onto visit them and teach them and have fun. Above all they need someone they can talk to. We warmly invite you to join us and volunteer. We are keen to hear to visit and stay for some time to teach them and make a real difference to the children and young people's lives.

## Solicit your support to our programs

### You can make a difference in the life of a street child

Your support and participation in this humanitarian venture will strengthen our efforts towards these disadvantage group empowerment. Your tiny help will help to transform the life of street child.

### To make a difference .....need YOUR help today

If you would like to support us financially through a check/cash deposit an online transfer, kindly contact us below given address.

## CARDS

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"Children who left home for relief often face abuse, harassment, exploitation and deprivation in the railway station. Also they often realize oppressive and submissive conditions. As they lose the sense of belongingness and identity, they develop fear and in times they loss the sense of physical and psychological boundaries. With such abnormal life and thinking their behavior is slowly destroyed."