



**Annual Report 2012**



**YuvaLok in Partnership with The United Nation's  
"Millennium Development Goals"**



**... partner with us**



**F**or 19 years, YuvaLok Foundation has been giving hope and a future to young people caught in the web of extreme poverty. For hundreds of these children and youth, classroom education was an impossible dream. Our schools and programs have changed the path of the lives of countless young people. Our students completing high school and going on to college or to find a decent employment sparked a continuum of transformation in their communities like never before.

We believe all young people deserve a chance of education that is transformative in nature. YuvaLok schools have proved through the results evidenced over the years that the most helpless boys and girls in our country can and will succeed in school and beyond when given a proper educational experience. All young people everywhere with appropriate education are the key to a transformed world. When children from poorer communities are allowed to make progress, we can boldly say that we are a progressive society.

This year, too, YuvaLok Foundation partnered with companies, institutions and non-governmental organizations. This has strengthened our efforts to ensure our students each year are discovering hope for a promising future in careers and jobs that will enable them to bring prosperity to themselves, their families, and their communities. Our partners are not interested in doling out alms and charity but willingly and generously contribute because they know high returns such as fruitfulness and effectiveness are guaranteed. This attitude has helped us to be intentional in moving toward a broader, more complete, transformative approach to meeting the needs of the poor, with compassion, encouragement, intellectual stimulation and discipline.

## From the Desk of The Executive Director

**Sam Rajshekhar**  
*Executive Director*

Nineteen years! It's never been easy and it continues to be demanding. There are times we feel like giving up when the behavior and attitudes of some students are less than we expected.



A few are always complaining no matter how good you are to them. The lack of resources a perpetual challenge, sometimes drive us to desperation. There is no end to the urgent need for dedicated, compassionate, skilled and professional staff.

Friends, you invest your money, and YuvaLok staff members invest their time, patience, persistence and unconditional love! But all of us together are investing in young people resulting in transformed lives! This is what makes it worth it all and be assured, we will never give up! Thank you for keeping us going. We will continue investing in lives with God's blessings and your partnership.

It is my pleasure to place in your hands the YuvaLok Foundation Annual Report 2012, with gratitude to God, for His blessings on our work!

**P**ants: Most of us start our day out with pants. We put them on, one leg at a time, just like everyone else. It's become so routine we probably do it without even thinking about it. Pants - a simple reminder that we are contributing members of a civil and fairly well-dressed society.

Now, rather than stepping into those pants, step with us into the world of the Bangalore slums. Here homes are made of the discarded refuse from the landfills surrounding the dwellings of countless families. Children only eat if they or their parents can find work. Boys and girls are subject to neglect. For many the suffering is compounded when their father spends what few rupees he has on alcohol. Here, you see toddlers wandering aimlessly about—wearing nothing from the waist down. Pants are a luxury. Not only pants but food, cleanliness, tenderness and affection. In a place where basic needs are rarely met, education is a lost hope.

When YuvaLok started 19 years ago with a vision to empower India's disadvantaged children with dignity, hope and compassion, we knew we'd have our work cut out for us. We wanted to defy the status-quo of Bangalore society and give these children more than just pants. We wanted to give them a world where they are a part of something wonderful, something bigger—a community of people embraced, educated and enabled to give back.

More than 5000 children between the ages of 6 and 16 have come through YuvaLok's doors. Over one hundred of them have had the opportunity to write for the prestigious and highly competitive Board Exam. And

## Report 2011 - 2012

**Shobha Louls**  
*Program Director*

more than half of those that take it pass and are able to progress to college. We see it as our responsibility to elevate our community through education and compassion. These now-



accomplished and emboldened young adults go out into the world knowing the role that they must play for things to improve for their younger siblings and for the generations to come.

We have been giving you an early update. This year we had 466 children at YuvaLok School at Hennur Bande. That's 466 little lives, little needs, little smiles. (And for those of you who are keeping track, it's 466 little pants—or skirts.) It's also 466 opportunities for a city, a country, a generation to change the way it views and treats these overlooked and underprivileged youths. Through courses in nutrition, health and hygiene, life skills, sports, debate, crafts, painting and dancing, we seek to transform one forgotten rag picker into tomorrow's young





Investiture

entrepreneur. We aim to uplift today's abused child laborer into next year's community champion and today's street kid into a valued and important member of society.

#### **Vidya Vahini School, Kannur**

Apart from this, we have also had 120 kids at our Vidya Vahini School at Kannur. Parents being Migrant laborers and Quarry workers, there is no alternative for these kids, other than going to the work site with their parents. Realizing this need YuvaLok opened its doors even to a younger kid as old as one and half year. They come to school with their older siblings and are cared for in a clean and secure environment. This school is growing rapidly. It will always welcome you with broad smiles and laughter spread all around the area.

#### **Mission of Yuvalok**

Education is at the core of YuvaLok's mission

but lesson plans are only a part of the larger picture. Our world tells these children that they are worthless, purposeless and nothing more than a drain on resources. We tell them that they are valued beyond measure, loved beyond imagination and that without them, the change that our community desperately needs will not happen. But they aren't the only ones who make this transformation possible. Without your generous and consistent support of YuvaLok, 466 less children would have heard that life-giving message in Hennur Bande and 120 in Kannur this year. That's 586 boys and girls without food, hope, or dignity. Thank you for your love and dedication; they are the catalyst for change in one of the most depraved and spiritually dark places in our world today.

#### **Values**

YuvaLok's leaders must do more than overcome the pressures and challenges of running a demanding organization. They must operate the programs in a way that is ethical and reflective of our core values. In a



Staff and Students in action



country where the difference between sharing and bribing runs a thin grey line, YuvaLok stands apart with a commitment to business and personal ethics that defies many of our society's generally accepted practices. We cannot ask the children to pursue honesty and fairness if we do not practice it diligently within our walls. While corruption and self-gain may be compelling drivers for others, YuvaLok holds firm against any approach that could undermine the principled messages we share with our children.

### **Teachers**

YuvaLok's leaders have diligently selected the most upstanding and accomplished teachers to partner with us in our mission. Due to the high demand for these educators, we have lost a few of our team members over the last year. The instructors who are here with us could easily find more comfortable

positions but instead chose to make that sacrifice for the sake of the children they serve.

It is a privilege to celebrate and recognize our talented, compassionate and committed YuvaLok teachers. These educators will be the first to tell you that they are honored to be a part of something so meaningful in the lives of their students. Though the work is hard and the hours are long, they know that each child we bring in is not only a life improved but a life redeemed from depravity.

YuvaLok also supports the continued development of our staff through ongoing training. In order to equip our team, we introduce new methods and teaching aids into the classrooms.

### **Annual Staff Conference**

During the Annual Staff Conference last year three specific developmental tools made a noticeable impact here at YuvaLok. Brian Beaton successfully presented a new teaching module for educators. Arie Bowen helped in identifying methods for good governance and planning. And Weyman Howard brought an encouraging message 'Love Works,' that reminded us all what's at the heart of our efforts.

### **Parents**

YuvaLok believes in partnering with our students' parents in order to ensure success. We ask them to engage with the topics that we are teaching the children. Consistency is vital for change and we want the children to learn these foundational values both at school and at home. These tenets include





**Picking Up**

caring for the elderly, the environment and the community, showing kindness to the needy and respecting your neighbor.

To properly care for and nurture the little lives that we are entrusted with, compassion is a necessity. We create a safe environment and under that protection, we teach the

importance of discipline and responsibility. We expect great things of our children and we encourage them to embrace the hard road that lies ahead. Here too we ask parents to join with us in creating a structured atmosphere where accountability is paramount.

### **Expansion and growth**

We are excited to share some terrific news with the rest of the YuvaLok family! This last year offered us an opportunity to expand our reach. This means more disadvantaged and mistreated children are finding their way to our school. Our target region continues to be the vast metropolitan of Bangalore and its surrounding areas. This year, we extended our transport services to the village near Kannur, on the way to the Bangalore Airport. It was immensely encouraging to work with the local leaders there, who offered us their full support. The neglected children of quarry workers now have a Kannur School pick-up and drop-off facility! And we can't wait to share with you more as our impact in that area continues to develop and grow.



**Primary School Staff along with the Head Teacher Mrs. Shantika Chorian**



of the children rather than their own.

**Sankashwar Mission Hospital** is reaching out to the local community, with dedicated Health Care Services and slowly taking steps toward development and professionalism. Need for Doctors and Health Care Staff is unending.

#### **Volunteers**

With a relatively small staff working constantly, we are dependent upon the generosity of our volunteers to provide the full experience for YuvaLok's children. It's so encouraging to see people from different professional backgrounds recognizing the need, getting involved, and finding joy in sharing their kindness, their precious time and their resources.

Last year we were blessed with many volunteers, making our ambitious outreach possible. Prominent among them were Medical Students from IFMSA Netherlands, the Youth Group from St. Andrews Church, Oxford. The family of Peiter Kleingeld helped us in building necessary relationships and

#### **Partnerships**

We continued our partnership with St. Peter's School Chamrajnagar, which extended its services to the tribal children of that area, for whom schooling was a distant dream. Challenges are many, but children have to be educated. We appreciate the services of teachers, who care for the welfare







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BANGALORE PROJECT 2011, **ROB FAVIER & BAND**  
IN AID OF **YUVALOK**

[www.yuvalok.org](http://www.yuvalok.org)



## A YuvaLok Story

To some, clothing is a way of expressing personal style. To others, it's a necessity for warmth and comfort. Thanks to your support, for 12 young women, clothing has become a once in a lifetime opportunity for a new start.

### PRIYA'S STORY

"We were taught compassionately. I am so happy to be here and so grateful you let me come." Priya (18) describes her experience in the YuvaLok's Program. She had been unable to complete her high school education and her job prospects were grim. She had looked into classes where she could pay for sewing training but nothing was available. For a young woman in the Bangalore slums that meant a little hope for her future. Priya had never heard of Vocational Training supported by strangers who care about her life. But that's exactly what YuvaLok invited her to attend.

### HOW YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE?

Through the generous help of donors like you, YuvaLok offers professional training courses in sewing and tailoring. These programs help young, marginalized women like Priya become self-reliant adults. The program is more than important skill development. YuvaLok gives these women the unique experience of a wholistic teaching. While they may come to learn how to sew, they leave with the knowledge that they are valued and treasured beyond measure – that their worth extends well beyond their present circumstances.

### SEWING CONFIDENCE INTO THE FABRIC OF THE COMMUNITY

During the graduation ceremony many of the young women became teary eyed as they thanked their sewing teacher Mrs. Mary Mohan and talked about what this new talent means to them. YuvaLok's Board Member Mrs. Sonya Chacko attended and gifted sewing machines to each of the girls. Most of the alumni are





already experiencing the benefits. Priya has accepted a new job at a garment factory and her own machine at home will allow her to support her family with extra income. "My favorite thing to make is the dresses for women," Priya beams. It's the smile of a girl who has found purpose and hope and for whom clothing

will always mean much more than just fabric and stitching. It means dignity, self-confidence and empowerment. It means an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and perhaps the eternal knowledge that she is loved immeasurably more than she ever thought possible.



**Graduating Trainees with their instructor Mrs. Mary Wilson**



**TARGET** has provided immeasurable encouragement in their commitment to support us continuously for the last three years. Their visits and involvement with YuvaLok are one of our greatest delights.

**Goldman Sachs** and **Thomson Reuters** also stood with us and are deserving of all the gratitude and appreciation we could possibly offer.

To all the individuals, organizations, volunteers, educators, staff, and community leaders that made this last year at YuvaLok possible, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for defying the odds and joining with us in a vision for our world that

few have dared to pursue with such commitment, sacrifice and unquestionable determination.

**T**here is a common understanding in India: if you are a young woman from a poor family, you shouldn't dream of a higher education. You take care of your siblings or take any job that you can get to survive. A disadvantaged girl who wants to achieve academic success has little hope. No matter how smart and gifted she may be, she has no options in Bangalore.

On a hot summer's day, 19 year old Sangeetha (who completed her schooling

YuvaLok Program Director Shobha Louis. She becomes immediately shy when asking Shobha for help with this year's tuition fee. As Shobha puts her at ease, Sangeetha opens up about her second year of Pre-University studies. She sits up a little taller in her chair as she talks pursuing a degree in Computers. When asked what she would be doing if YuvaLok had not provided this scholarship, Sangeetha shrugs, "a maid, I think."

## Sangeetha's Story



at YuvaLok) enters the YuvaLok office. Her story is sad but familiar. When she was a little girl her father abandoned the family for another woman. Despite ongoing health problems, her mother is forced to work as a maid for multiple families. On a good week, she is able to afford food for Sangeetha and her sister. Sangeetha sits patiently in the office of

As Shobha puts her pen to the coarse paper of a cheque, she smiles, "It brings us such joy and satisfaction when we are able to help someone like Sangeetha, who is so smart and worthy. It's our desire to see that deserving girls like her are able to go through the higher education process. She is keen in her studies, works hard and has focus."



Sangeetha blushes deep red at the compliment.

#### **College Education Support Program**

Twenty-three other disadvantaged teenagers will walk into that same office over the next few months. They are returning to request YuvaLok's help with college tuition fee for the new academic year. Only 9 of them are young women but in a place like Bangalore, that is progress. Each of them is bright, talented and eager. But more than that they are grateful. They are grateful to be

considered worthy of something for the first time in their lives. They are grateful to people like you who have given them a new understanding of the world: if you are a young woman from a poor family and you work hard, there are people out there who want to help you succeed, who believe in you. More than the indispensable gift of a college degree, YuvaLok donors are giving these young people a better understanding of their value to God. That's the kind of education that changes a heart, a country and the world.

## **FAREWELL TO** *Mrs. Florence Yohan*

Mrs. Florence Yohan served our Institution as the Principal of YuvaLok Riha Community School, from the year 2008 – 2011. As a leader she was courageous and inspiring, motivating and friendly. She played a major role enriching the lives of our students and teachers. She guided the teachers to better teaching methods and techniques. Learning became interesting and experiential. Mrs. Yohan played a vital role in nurturing and spreading innovations and co-ordinating the work of the staff. She helped to foster new arts, co-curricular and cultural activities in our school. We will not forget the happy days we enjoyed together. We are here today to say Goodbye. Goodbyes are not forever, they are not the end too, they simply mean we will miss you until we meet again.

II Cor 8:7 says *"But as you abound in everything in faith, speech, in knowledge and in all diligence and in your love, see that you abound in this grace also".*

The Board, Management, Staff and Students thank Mrs. Yohan for her dedicated service at YuvaLok Riha Community School and wish her the very best in life as she continues to invest in others lives. We pray that God Almighty will grant you a long and useful life of peace, good health and prosperity. You will be deeply missed.



## PANGS OF HUNGER LEAD THEM TO YUVALOK SCHOOL

**P**raisay lived in abject poverty. She joined YuvaLok in the year 2007 in Level 1 at our National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and her brother Ranjith in the Foundation Level. Her father was a drunkard who lived literally on the streets with the family of 5 members. Her mother, was often beaten up and tortured very badly. They were not sure of a single meal that they could look up to each day and survival was very

difficult. Mother was depressed of the situation and wanted to look for a job but was not allowed by



her husband. It was a very difficult and pathetic situation for a mother to see her three children starving.

One day Praisay's father set out in the morning and did not return.

The reigns of the family fell into the hands of the mother, who till then, was not even allowed to work as a domestic maid. She desperately needed a place to stay and found a small shed on the road side used by the construction workers and took shelter there along with her three children. But soon she was asked to move out of this place. Not knowing what to do and looking at the plight of her hungry and sparsely dressed children, she approached a contractor. She worked as a construction labourer with a very small income and this was not a regular job. Her husband came back on the scene and again started troubling them and made their lives miserable.

They again moved out of that place and came close to where YuvaLok's Riha Community School is situated.

Mother began to work as a domestic

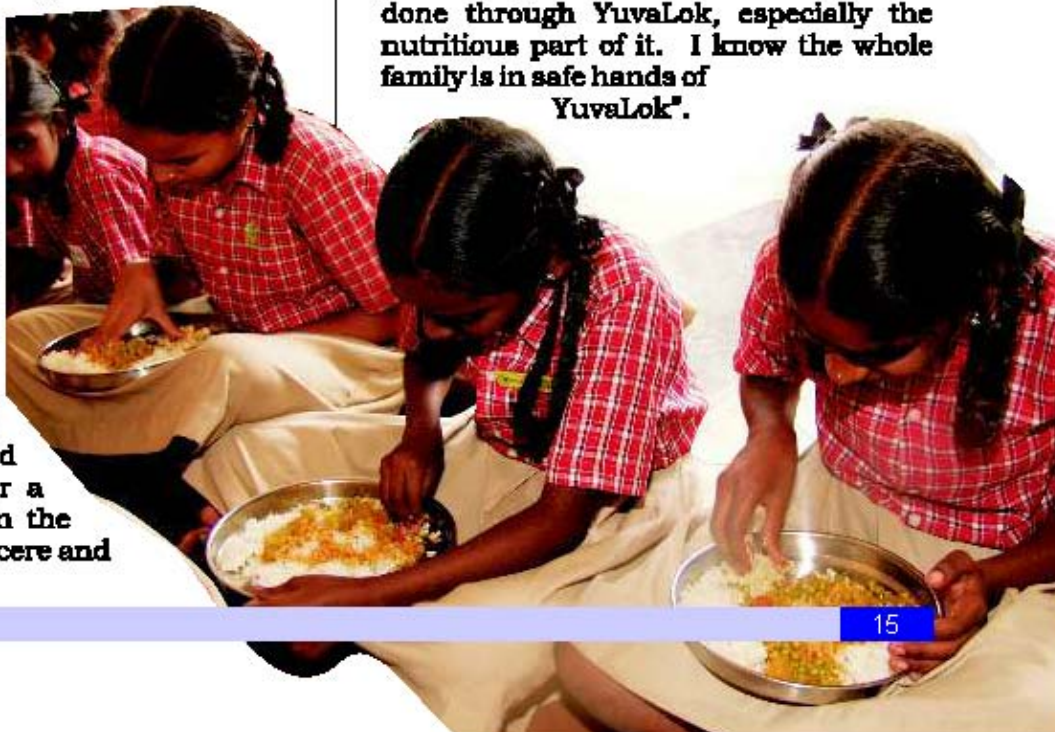


maid and one day she saw children going to school and enquired about the school they were going to. After having got details of YuvaLok School, she approached the school office and explained her situation with the hope of seeking help from the school to admit her children.

Listening to her pathetic story and the condition of her children suffering from malnutrition, the school readily lent their helping hand and admitted Praisie and Ranjith. Later Rebecca the third sibling joined the school in the year 2009. Her mother was happy to see her children growing up with a good education and proper nutritious food. The porridge that is served in the morning helped in giving good mental development and improvement in their health. She encouraged her children to study well and saw the difference that YuvaLok made in their lives in a couple of years. Later, when she lost her job our organization helped her by offering her a job as an helper in the school. She is a sincere and

diligent worker loved by all the staff.

In the words of Praisie, she says that "YuvaLok is a gift from heaven". She is an intelligent student and shows great interest in co-curricular activities. When the mother was asked as to what her difficulty of bringing up the three children was, she says "It is by God's grace we are able to manage along with my three children with the very basic needs of life. However, when the school has holidays, that's my difficult time, I just cant afford to feed my children three meals a day. They just have two meals a day and that is just rice and water. I dread when the long holidays come. Just trusting in God, He will continue to provide my needs as much as He has done through YuvaLok, especially the nutritious part of it. I know the whole family is in safe hands of YuvaLok".





Mr. Polson Paulose giving away the certificates to the successful trainees of Threads of Life



YuvaLok staff Conference 2012



Mrs. Sonya Chacko, YuvaLok Board Member presenting sewing machines to all successful trainees



Parents Teacher's meeting in Progress



Mrs. Prema Gnanakan, Chief Guest at the Std. X Graduation Service



Science project on Pollution



Children excited with their Christmas presents



Target volunteers at YuvaLok



Sports with Thomson Reuters



# YUVALOK PARTNERS

Friends of <b>YuvaLok</b>	 <b>TARGET®</b>	<b>Culemborg Trust</b> Netherlands	 <b>ACCEPT</b> compassion in action	 <b>younglife</b> Young Life International
 <b>WORLD SERVANTS</b> Netherlands	<b>Leadership Foundations</b> USA	 <b>Goldman Sachs</b>	Friends from <b>MAASSLUIS</b> Netherlands	 <b>YuvaLok Child</b> Netherlands
<b>AKID</b> Australia	<b>SAYGO</b> Oxford, England	 <b>WE CAN END POVERTY 2015</b> MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS	<b>BCF</b> Bangalore Christian Fellowship	 <b>PRISTINE ORGANICS</b>
<b>St. Michael's School</b> Hennur, Bangalore	 <b>Jyothi High School</b> Hennur Road, Bangalore	<b>Bethany</b> HIGH SCHOOL, Koramangala, Bangalore	<b>REACHING OUT</b> USA	<b>MTCF</b> USA
Wholeness International-UK	<b>Pragathi Trust</b>	Parents of <b>YuvaLok</b> Students	 <b>CRIN</b> CHILD RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE NETWORK	 Kamataka State Resource Centre on Child Labour

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**Mr. Raj Patel**, Management Consultant, Oxford, UK

**Mr. K. C. Raghu**, Nutrition Consultant, Managing Director, Pristine Organics Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore

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